

Protesters demand Sharon's ouster

TEL AVIV (R) — Several thousand Israeli "Peace Now" demonstrators marched through the streets of Tel Aviv Saturday shouting demands for the total removal of former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon from the government. Scores of police accompanied the demonstrators but most of the streets were nearly empty because of the high winds and rain. No disturbances were reported by police. Mr. Sharon was named minister without portfolio after he was forced to resign the defence post in accordance with the findings of a judicial commission inquiring into the Beirut massacre of Palestinians last September. Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Moshe Arens arrived Friday to take up the post of defence minister.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"

Weatherman predicts cold day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The depression which gripped Jordan Thursday afternoon is still affecting the area and is expected to stay on for another 24 hours, the weather bureau said Saturday. It will be cold and rainy and snow falls are expected in mountain areas, the bureau said. The bureau also advised drivers to drive carefully Sunday as roads would be slippery as a result of the formation of ice crystals. The depression, which was centred over Cyprus, has started moving to the north but the air mass will continue to affect the area, the bureau said.

Volume 8 Number 2199 AMMAN, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27, 1983 — JUMADA AL AWWAL 15, 1403 Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Egyptian lawyers burn Israeli flags

CAIRO (R) — Several hundred lawyers burned three Israeli flags at a rally to mark the third anniversary of Egypt establishing diplomatic relations with "the Israeli enemy" Saturday. As the flags burned, the lawyers hoisted Palestinian banners. Security police ringed the Cairo Bar Association building where the rally was held and fire engines stood by. The lawyers shouted slogans supporting "the Palestine heroic struggle" and denouncing the Camp David agreement which led to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty of 1979.

Qadhafi thanks Malta for solving hijack

VALLETTA (R) — Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi has thanked Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff for securing the release of 158 people from a hijacked Libyan airliner, Malta Radio said Saturday. Two Libyan army officers hijacked the plane last Sunday while on a domestic Libyan flight and landed it in Malta. They eventually surrendered on Wednesday after Mr. Mintoff promised they would not be sent back to Libya. They are being held by the Maltese army until another country says it is willing to accept them.

Snow hits Syria for ninth day

DAMASCUS (R) — Scores of mountain villages were reported cut off from the rest of the country Saturday as heavy snow fell in Syria for the ninth day running. The official Syrian News Agency SANA said the snowstorm also blocked roads between Damascus and other cities. Some mountain villages were under five metres of snow, SANA said. At least 70 people died in a snowstorm which lashed neighbouring Lebanon last weekend.

Egypt to reinforce air force

CAIRO (R) — Egypt plans to buy more French Mirage-2000 and U.S.-made F-16 fighters to form the backbone of a modernised air force, Egyptian Chief of Staff Abd-Rabunabi Hafez was quoted Saturday as saying. Gen. Hafez, who is visiting France, told the Paris correspondent of the official Middle East News Agency (MENA): "Egypt will sign contracts for more Mirage-2000s and F-16s. The two aircraft will be the major planes serving in the Egyptian air force." Egypt last year signed a \$1 billion deal with France for 20 Mirage-2000s. The chief of staff did not say how many more of the planes Cairo hoped to buy. Egypt already has 40 F-16s and about 80 are on order.

U.S. tests Pershing-2

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Army Saturday conducted its fifth test of the Pershing-2 missile, scheduled for deployment in December in West Germany, and said the launch and flight, "appeared normal." In the test, the missile's accuracy, the Pershing flew its full course of 290 kilometres at the White Sands missile range, New Mexico, without incident, the officials said. The Pershing-2 had trouble in its early tests—the first was a failure and the second only a partial success—but the two tests before Saturday's were successes.

U.S., Lebanon discuss draft agreement for Israeli pullout

BEIRUT (R) — American and Lebanese diplomats met for a second day Saturday to discuss draft proposals in the latest U.S. effort to speed up negotiations on the withdrawal of all Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian troops from Lebanon.

Official sources said a drafting committee of senior officials was working on the wording of parts of a proposed agreement with Israel on the withdrawal of its invasion force, which entered Lebanon last June.

Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have indicated that they would pull their remaining men out of Lebanon once the Israelis left.

The sources said the committee was working out texts for points on which it believed agreement with Israel was closest.

At the same time, they added, U.S. special envoy Philip Habib met Lebanese President Amin Gemayel to discuss some points on which Lebanon and Israel were most deeply divided.

The sources said Mr. Habib was planning to go to Israel Saturday or Sunday with a comprehensive list of the progress to date in the talks which Lebanon, Israel and the U.S. have been holding twice a week since late December.

The talks have been making slow progress and Saturday's meetings, which followed a long session of U.S.-Lebanese talks Friday, marked a sharp quickening of pace by the U.S. team.

The official sources said the two days of intensive work were aimed at tying up loose ends from the 18 sessions of Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations, rather than a bid to come up with striking new ideas to break the deadlock on the most contentious issues.

They said the special envoy's message for the Israelis on progress would consist of three sections: — Joint U.S.-Lebanese texts being worked out for those topics on which final agreement with Israel looked possible soon. — Texts being proposed by the U.S. as a compromise on points on which Israel and Lebanon differed to some extent.

-- Details of those subjects on which Israel and Lebanon were completely deadlocked. — The sources declined to give details on each category, but Lebanese government sources said Lebanon and Israel were closest to agreement on ending the state of war which has existed technically between them since the creation of Israel in 1948. They added that the two sides had been most deeply divided over "security" arrangements which Israel wants to South Lebanon and the question of opening the Israeli-Lebanese border to trade. Israel has been insisting on keeping a small number of troops in observation posts in South Lebanon, but the Lebanese have objected, apparently fearing that if some Israelis were to stay, the Syrians would reject complete withdrawal of their forces.

TASS assails U.S. role

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet news agency TASS charged Saturday the United States was trying to take over the occupation of southern Lebanon from Israel in order to use Lebanon as a base for its rapid deployment military task force. "Ever newer areas of Lebanese territory are getting, under the control of U.S. Marines," TASS commentator Grigory "Ivlev" wrote.

The aims of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last summer thus were becoming increasingly clear, he said. "This means above all assuring conditions for a further Israeli expansion and establishment on Lebanese soil of a powerful base for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, which is the Pentagon's police force intended for use in the Middle East," the commentary said.



The visiting foreign minister of Norway, Svend Stray (left), accompanied by his Jordanian counterpart, Marwan Al Qasem, inspects a guard of honour mounted at Amman Airport upon his arrival Saturday (Petra photo)

Norwegian foreign minister in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Norwegian Foreign Minister Svend Stray arrived here Saturday for a three-day visit to Jordan. Mr. Stray will be received in audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Marwan Al Qasem, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra said. Mr. Stray's talks here are expected to cover the Middle East, with special reference to the Palestinian question, and bilateral relations. According to Petra, Mr. Stray will be taken on a tour of the Palestinian refugee camp at Baq'a. He will also visit archaeological sites in Jordan.

State Department says Jordan has not requested for U.S. arms

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Thursday by more than 50 senators calling on the administration not to sell new weapons to Jordan. "We have addressed that sort of question before, about resolutions of that sort, and I don't have anything to add to what we have said," Mr. Romberg replied. "Obviously, we also have made known and (it) still is the case that there is no formal request from Jordan for the kinds of advanced weaponry which I think they (the senators) are addressing themselves to. So we would need to get that request before we would be able to respond," the deputy spokesman said.

(Continued on page 3)

OPEC launches urgent efforts to avert price war

BAHRAIN (R) — The oil ministers of Venezuela and Iraq began an urgent round of shuttle visits between Middle East OPEC members Saturday as part of efforts to avert a world oil price war. Venezuela's Humberto Calderon Berti had a second meeting in Riyadh with Saudi Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani and later arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He plans to meet Kuwait's Ali Khalifa Al Sabah in Paris on Monday, oil sources said. Qassem Ahmad Taqi of Iraq had talks in Doha with Qatari leaders. He had taken part in a meeting of Gulf ministers on Tuesday and Wednesday in Riyadh where agreement was reached in principle on an oil price cut in response to earlier cuts by non-OPEC Britain and Norway and Nigeria, an OPEC member. The ministers were trying to forge a tentative agreement on a orderly reduction of about \$4 a barrel in OPEC's \$34 reference price.

(Continued on page 3)

Shultz optimistic Jordan will join 'peace process'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met with top American labour leaders Friday in Florida and afterwards, at a news conference, said the United States feels that if conditions are good, Jordan would join the "Middle East peace process." Mr. Shultz refused to discuss details of his off-the-record hour-long meeting with the executive council of the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisation (AFL-CIO) other than to say it involved a wide-ranging discussion of many topics in a "very constructive atmosphere."

Many of the questions at his news conference in Bal Harbour, Florida, dealt with the U.S. economy, although it also touched on international issues.

Mr. Shultz said the United States is optimistic that King Hussein "genuinely wants to be part of the (Middle East) peace process under the right conditions." Mr. Shultz also said it should be obvious to people throughout the Middle East, particularly Palestinians, that "they have a tremendous amount to gain from the establishment of a peaceful situation in the Middle East and with Israel."

Police chief describes Assyut violence

CAIRO (R) — The rise of militant Islamic groups at a university in Upper Egypt was encouraged by members of staff to counter Communist students, a court was told Saturday. Lt.-Gen. Hassan Soliman, deputy security chief in the Upper Egyptian province of Assyut, told a state security court trying 281

(Continued on page 3)



Mr. M. Hidayatullah

Indian vice-president arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Indian Vice-President and Mrs. M. Hidayatullah are expected to arrive in Amman Sunday on an official five-day visit, a spokesman for the Indian embassy said here Saturday.

Mr. Hidayatullah, who will be accompanied by senior officials from the Indian Foreign Ministry, is paying the visit in response to an invitation from His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the spokesman said.

During his visit, the Indian vice-president is expected to hold talks with the Crown Prince and senior Jordanian officials. He will also visit historic and archaeological sites in Jordan.

Mr. Hidayatullah's visit to Jordan is aimed at bolstering ties of friendship between Jordan and India, an official statement issued here said Saturday.

Mr. Hidayatullah, 78, who has a long career in practising law behind him, assumed the post of Indian vice-president in 1979. Immediately prior to the vice-presidency, he occupied the post of the chief justice of the Supreme Court of India. Among various academic honours and awards conferred on Mr. Hidayatullah are the Order of the British Empire (1946), the Order of Yugoslav Flag (1970), Medalion and Plaque of Merit Philonisa (Manila, 1970) and the Knight of Mark Twain (1971). He is also author of a number of books, most prominent of which are "Democracy in India and the Judicial Process," "The South-West Africa Case," "The USA and India," and "My Own Boswell."

Rabat, Algiers take first step towards reconciliation

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid met Saturday for the first time since their countries severed relations in 1976 in a dispute over the Western Sahara issue, well-informed sources in Rabat said. They said King Hassan arrived Saturday morning in the Moroccan frontier town of Oujda, then crossed to meet Mr. Benjedid in the small Algerian community of Akid Loufi.

Official confirmation of the meeting and the subjects discussed was not immediately available. The Algerian- and Libyan-backed Polisario Front has been waging a guerrilla war against Morocco since 1976 for independence in the phosphate-rich Western Sahara.

The war began after Spain, the former colonial power, withdrew in that year and handed the territory over to Morocco and Mauritania under a tripartite agreement signed in Madrid in November, 1975.

The Polisario's bitter campaign led to Mauritania renouncing all its claims to the territory under a peace agreement with the guerrillas in August, 1979, and Morocco subsequently annexed the southern, formerly Mauritania-ruled part of Western Sahara.

Numeiri enters no-rival election for presidency

KHARTOUM (R) — President Jaafar Numeiri opened a national congress of his ruling Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) Saturday to chart new policies at a time of growing economic distress and reports of unrest in the mainly Christian south. The 1,986 delegates assembled in Khartoum's Friendship Hall four days after Field Marshal Numeiri accused neighbouring Libya of plotting to send mercenaries to assassinate him and overthrow his government.

In his opening speech, the president made no direct reference to the charges but said Sudan would "continue to resist attempts to undermine African unity and stability through foreign hegemony."

He is putting himself forward at the congress for re-election to a third term as president. There is no other candidate. His overriding national problem is the climbing burden of debt, estimated by foreign experts at \$7.8 billion and fuelled by a chronic trade imbalance. Travellers returning from the south have told of isolated cases in which southern troops mutinied against their Arab officers and refused to serve at garrisons in the north. One report said northern troops quelled unrest last month in the southernmost province of Equatoria. The pro-government newspaper Al Sahafa Saturday quoted authoritative sources as saying dissidents who were arrested recently by Sudanese police had been specially trained to create instability in the south.

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Pravda renews attack on Bonn plan to deploy missiles

MOSCOW (R) — The official Soviet daily Pravda Saturday renewed criticism of the conservative government in Bonn for its resolve to go ahead with plans to deploy U.S. missiles in West Germany if it wins the March 6 general election. An article by its Bonn correspondent, headed "Sanity Must Prevail," said the main concern of the ruling Christian Democrat (CDU) Party appeared to be how to distract the people from the anti-war movement and prevent sober assessment of the situation. The newspaper made no reply to charges from Bonn Friday that the Soviet Union was trying to intervene in the election in favour of the Social Democrat (SPD) opposition.

Moscow sees SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel, who met Soviet leader Yuri Andropov here last month, as less likely to go ahead with the missile deployment if U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva fail to reach agreement by the end of the year. But Saturday's article said some members of the CDU, their Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) partners and Free Democrat (FDP) coalition allies were also querying the wisdom of the missile plan. The article gave the impression that the centre-right government's leadership was ignoring dissenting noises from within its own ranks. "The CDU/CSU-FDP leadership, to judge by all reports, has apparently tied itself to the obligation to the United States to clear the way for Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles 'in any event,'" it said. West Germans were being subjected to masses of facts and figures designed to instill into their minds the idea of a Soviet military threat, while the U.S. wanted the deployment of the missiles in Europe to lessen the risk of a nuclear war involving its own territory, Pravda said.

Kohl retaliates

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has said Moscow has no chance of driving a wedge between West Germany and the United States on the issue of nuclear disarmament. He voiced the belief in a West German Radio interview in which reference was made to Mr. Gromyko's call to West Europeans to distance themselves from the United States stance on nuclear disarmament. The West German chancellor said: "Where we are concerned Mr. Gromyko will quite certainly not achieve this aim, and just as we are loyal allies, so will others be."

FEATURES

Hong Kong police alert on immigrants

By Rajendra Bajpai
Reuter

HONG KONG — Increased vigilance on land and at sea has helped cut the flow of illegal immigrants from China to Hong Kong to a relative trickle but thousands reach the British colony every year in search of a better life.

The Chinese, mainly from neighbouring Guangdong province, show great ingenuity and often take great risks in their efforts to reach Hong Kong. Many are killed by sharks while attempting to swim to the colony.

They are convinced Hong Kong offers a life of luxury and that jobs are easily available, said Superintendent Visumey Willy-Furth of the marine police, whose men are responsible for blocking the sea route from China.

Last year 8,676 illegal immigrants were arrested compared to nearly 91,000 in 1979 when the flow was at its peak. About half a million have evaded capture in the past few years, pushing the colony's population to over five million and adding to the pressure on housing and civic amenities.

Army and police guard the 22-mile (36-kilometre) land border between China and Hong Kong. At sea 110 marine police boats keep watch on fishing junks, sampans and speed boats which might be trying to sneak in with cargos of immigrants.

Crime syndicates are largely responsible for ferrying the illegals to Hong Kong and sometimes the journey can end in tragedy. When their vessels are chased by police boats the crews sometimes dump their passengers into

the sea.

In one recent case marine police discovered the bodies of four children in tiny boxes fitted to a boat found on a beach. They were apparently left to die when the men bringing them in abandoned the craft to escape police patrols.

Many of the syndicates are run by former illegal immigrants who drifted into crime after failing to find lucrative jobs.

Police say the syndicates charge 2,000 to 40,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$300 to \$6,000) to smuggle a person into the colony.

Children, some as young as four, are among the latest "commodities" being smuggled into Hong Kong.

Most of them are sent by parents still living in China, who hope their offspring will have a better future in the colony.

The men who bring them often use speed boats that run much faster than the larger police launches.

At night boats bringing the illegals switch off their lights in an effort to escape police detection. Police boats do the same in a constant war of nerves with the traffickers.

"Although it's easy they have not yet tried intercepting our communications and at the moment we have far more sophisticated equipment than they have," said Superintendent Willy-Furth.

The most intrepid are the illegals who attempt swimming to Hong Kong or wade through marshes.

Illegal immigrants who are captured are rarely jailed. Usually they are merely debriefed, finger-printed and sent home by the next train.

Will Montana update execution method?

By Peter Fox

HELENA, Montana — Traditions in the old west die hard, but one longtime frontier ritual, ominously known as "the necktie party," may soon give way to the 20th Century's more modern methods of executing the condemned.

Death by hanging is, and has always been, Montana's only form of capital punishment.

For years the "hanging tree" in Helena was a landmark fathers showed their sons as a sign of the bad old days when vigilante groups took the law into their own hands.

Montana's legislature — which meets for only three months every other year — this week began considering a bill to introduce lethal injection as an alternative means

of execution.

The bill would give three convicted murderers on Montana's "death row" and others to follow perhaps the last choice of their lives — to die by the rope or by the syringe.

Advocates of the bill being debated by Montana's Senate Judiciary Committee say a change is needed because hanging is an inhumane and possibly unconstitutional form of execution.

Only two other states still retain the gallows. Montana's last hanging took place 40 years ago.

Assistant State Attorney General John Maynard says the option of lethal injection should be introduced because the Supreme Court may rule that hanging violates the eighth amendment to the U.S. constitution, which forbids "cruel and unusual punishment."

But others, like Curt Chisholm, deputy director of the Montana Department of Institutions, which oversees the prison system, says death by injection would create an ethical conflict for doctors and nurses who would either have to act as executioners or train others to do so.

But Mr. Chisholm says his department does not want the responsibility and would prefer to remain "historical purists," leaving hanging for the Big Sky (Montana) sheriffs.

Montana's last execution was that of Philip "Slim" Coleman, a black man who confessed to the killing of a white woman. He was hanged on Sept. 10, 1943.

But some Montanans see the legislative discussions as a first step towards abolishing hanging, whose history here is an old as

Montana itself.

Lawlessness in Montana's frontier mining days of the 1860s prompted the formation of vigilantes and lynch law.

In 1981, the sheriff of Billings had a scaffold secretly built on the top of an eight-storey building in anticipation of an execution that the courts ordered stopped.

According to the sheriff, Richard Shaffer, "it is an art to hang someone. You have to have the correct dimensions. You have to know the man's height and weight, how far they will drop."

Sheriff Shaffer used World War II blueprints of scaffolds to build his and unveiled it shortly before a primary election which he lost. One of his last acts in office was to take it down.

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HOME NEWS

U.S. mayors express strong appreciation of Jordan's efforts for Mideast peace

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "We pray for peace along with you, we hope that this very difficult situation can be resolved by negotiation, and we deeply appreciate the immense responsibility undertaken in the region by Jordan and His Majesty King Hussein," a delegation of American mayors have unanimously declared.

At a press conference held here Friday evening, the party made some general comments on their week-long visit to Jordan. The tour was sponsored by the Jordan Society with the aim of raising the level of mutual understanding between America and Jordan through U.S. local officials.

"We", the mayors said, "both Democrats and Republicans alike support the initiative made by our president on Sept. 1, 1982." The mayors pointed out that they did not wish to deny, by such an endorsement, the importance of flexibility as they regard the initiative as a process and not a plan. "The value of the scheme will be judged by its results," they contended.

Although we were not able to speak on behalf of the U.S. government, we had the chance to discuss the very tense regional situation in the Middle East with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, the mayors said. The mayors also expressed their thanks to His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor and the Jordanian society for acting as their hosts.

The U.S. delegation were particularly impressed by the Jordanian people. They were also struck by the knowledge and efficiency displayed by ministers and other officials in showing them around the country and its projects. They said that they were very pleased by the frankness of people in answering their questions and the general affability of the discussions. "We are here as a group of mayors from various communities in the U.S. We observe, look, see, talk and will transmit our impressions to our communities," they emphasised.

The mayors said that their visit had been "excellent" in the sense that it had fulfilled better understanding between the two people especially in social, political, cultural, and historic aspects. "When we go back to our country, we will share our information and our tremendous admiration for your people," they said.

The delegation added that the successful projects, enshrined in the 5-year plan, which they had been shown made them feel more determined to make the aid available to support these projects.

The eight U.S. mayors pointed out that because they are "citizens of the world and citizens of their country", they are eager to achieve peace in the world and in the Mideast as a start.

They explained that their country has a diversity of opinion and thus needs time to promote the idea of the understanding with the Arab World.

The U.S. mayors said that they would try to exploit the American media to transmit their impressions. "We deal with the media on a daily basis and if there is for example a Jordanian delegation arriving in our cities, then we will be in a position to publicise it to our people." In particular they felt that they could concentrate on the local rather than the national net-works to attain this coverage.

Other mayors said that they would write extended features outlining their impressions of the visit, and would highlight themes considered, of being of special importance.

In some cities, the mayors said, it is normal practice to give presentations to various societies in the community. "Our impressions and experiences of Jordan will be presented in this way," they said.

Beyond that, they said that they are interested in making contacts with Jordanian students studying in their cities, and intend to establish student exchange programmes.

Exchanges of talent, people and art exhibits in particular will help to promote understanding while making a big impact on the local media, they said.

The Arab-American contacts might also result in the twinning of cities in the two countries. This would facilitate the setting up of study groups in the appropriate cities which would regularly visit the twin to maintain close contacts between cities and hence the two nations, they explained.

They said that during their visit to Jordan Valley, Petra and Aqaba discovered that their counterparts had similar thoughts on city management. This, they were sure, could only result in close future cooperation and exchange of ideas. They added that intellectual and educational centres could also be used to increase contacts.

"The University of Minnesota has received all the papers of Philip Hitti, a leading Middle East scholar in the U.S., and it is hoped to host a conference on the region in June at the university. This will enable many academics, cultural, community and ethnic groups to come together and discuss the area, thus ensuring a better understanding of the whole history of the Middle East," they said.

They added that the conference will give the officials of the various concerned nations a forum in which to discuss the present relationship between the U.S. and the countries of the Mideast.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mayor George Latimer of St. Paul Minnesota, whose mother is Lebanese, said that, although his mother did not speak Arabic, she was purely Lebanese in almost every sense. "Her personality, her values, her ideas all were middle eastern and they left a lasting impression on me until she died a year and a half ago."

Describing his visit, he said it was extraordinary in several significant ways. With reference to the Jordan Valley he said that it "was a memorable experience" because it was the result of developments since 1973 which has brought water and electricity to an area which had been inhabited for thousands of years but never enjoyed these facilities.

"The population of the Valley" he added, "is now approaching 100,000, while 15 years ago it was only about 20,000." Mr. Latimer said that he had met officials from several international development agencies and was particularly impressed by those who had established the potash plant on the Dead Sea. Commenting on this successful project he said "this would be the envy of any mayor in America."

Progress in the educational field and the astuteness of Jordan's young people had also impressed Mr. Latimer. In addition to the talent and brain power of the Jordanians, Mr. Latimer said that patriotism and love for the community is another striking characteristic of Jordanians. Mr. Latimer then praised the strong familial ties which help give the nation its feeling of stability. In this way, he was sure that Jordan would have an important role to play in promoting the stability of the region. Indeed he believed it to be the intellectual and technical hub of the whole region of the Middle East.

— In answer to inquiries about the extent of the Arab stereotype in the U.S. he said that a caricature view of the Arabs did exist in U.S. "I think we have a long way to go because Americans tend to think about foreign affairs in stereotype ways, not only in the Middle East but all over the world," he said. He explained that the average American, however hard working, tends to think of the community, the state and the nation. Thus when there is a major crisis, Americans tend not to be well educated in world affairs, he said. "I think that the oil embargo and the oil crisis, which we underwent twice

in one decade, left a mark, and the media helped to make this mark worse," he said.

Frankly speaking, Mr. Latimer said that Americans think that every nation in the Middle East is "spilling over with oil, which is obviously not true." They also became very aware of the problem, he added, because of the obvious effect that the oil crisis had on U.S. economy.

Mr. Latimer said that this is the stereotype thinking adopted by U.S. citizens in relation to the Arab World, and this necessitates a considerable amount of education to correct.

Being a local official in the U.S., Mr. Latimer said that he will attempt to take advantage of this opportunity to build bridges of understanding between the two nations. "I have more than a passing interest in the region because of my ancestry, my love for the region, its people and because of my firm belief that peace in this region is critical to the future of the world," he said.

Referring to the Reagan announcement of Sept. 1, Mr. Latimer said "it is an overdue, but sound and courageous move on the part of the president, although I happen to belong to the opposing political party."

"I think President Reagan set out guidelines which, although very general, at least gave some hope to all parties concerned," he concluded.

Byelaw favours lorry owners with Jordanian licensed vehicles

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian lorry owners, whose vehicles have been licensed in Arab countries, can obtain Jordanian licenses by paying the customs duty on them by instalments spread over 12 months, according to a new byelaw endorsed by the cabinet.

Ministry of Finance and Customs Under-Secretary Adel Al Qudus said that those who wish to benefit from the new byelaw will have to submit applications by June 30, 1983, at the latest.

The announcement was greeted by Mr. Mustafa Hasbun Akleh, director of the Jordanian Garages Union, who said the new measure will safeguard lorry owners' rights, and give them protection under the Jordanian law.

Nearly 4,000 lorry owners will benefit from the new measure which will no doubt facilitate land transportation between Jordan and neighbouring Arab countries, Mr. Akleh said.



The Secretary-General of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry Abdul Malek Al Yassin (second from right) is met at Amman airport Saturday (Petra photo)

Iraqi foreign affairs official begins visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry Abdul Malek Al Yassin arrived here Saturday for a one-day visit to Jordan.

He will have talks with Jordanian officials on subjects of mutual interest.

Mr. Yassin was met at Amman Airport by Iraqi ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan and several officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pharmacists plan Amman conference in March

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day symposium on the role of pharmacy and chemists in health insurance will open here on March 12 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, President of the Jordanian Pharmacists Association Nizar Jardaneh announced here Saturday.

He told a press conference at the Professional Association Complex that the symposium, to which Arab and foreign pharmacists have been invited, aims to discuss the relationship between medical and pharmaceutical institutions and their role in and contribution to the national health schemes. The symposium will be an opportunity for pharmacists to swap experiences and expertise and to plan ways of informing the public of current pharmaceutical research.

He said that Prince Hassan, Health Minister Zuhair Malhas, a representative from the Arab Pharmacists Union will deliver speeches during the symposium, which will also review a number of working papers to be presented by leading chemists.

The symposium, which has been organised in cooperation with the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University, has invited all pharmacists in the country, including those of the occupied Arab territories, to participate in its session, Mr. Jardaneh added.

Tunisian trade team arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Tunisian economic delegation arrived here Saturday for a three-day visit to Jordan.

The delegation, led by Mr. Ben Miled, will hold talks with officials of the Amman-based Arab Mining Company (Amnico) on cooperation between the company and Tunisia in mining affairs.

Another Tunisian delegation, representing Tunisian mining companies, is due here Sunday also for talks with Amnico officials. Its members will discuss joint mining projects including the white cement and slaked lime project.

N.Shuneh to develop springs

NORTHERN JORDAN VALLEY (Petra) — North Shuneh Municipality has drawn up plans for developing the town's mineral springs and attracting tourists, according to North Shuneh Mayor Nader Subuh.

He said that the plans entail constructing 40 chalets, 30 swimming pools near the mineral springs, a children's park, restaurant and a modern restaurant. Forty dunums of land has been purchased to establish the project which is expected to cost JD 200,000. This will be borrowed from the Cities and Villages Development Bank, Mr. Subuh said.

Arab jurists meeting opens in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Federation of Jurists (AFJ) opened its second meeting at the Professional Associations Complex in Amman Saturday.

The three-day meeting's agenda include such subjects as human rights and liberties and freedoms in the Arab World. The participants, who represent 13 Arab states, will also elect a new AFJ president and will discuss the federation's activities in the past year, as well as endorsing a new budget for AFJ's activities in 1983. The meeting will also prepare the ground for an Arab seminar on the rights of Arabs to settle and work in the Arab World.

Justice Minister Ahmad Al Tarawneh delivered the opening speech in which he paid tribute to the federation and its contribution to the furtherance of just Arab causes.

The Palestinians are leading a very difficult and miserable life under Zionist occupation which amounts to a blatant violation of all international charters, the minister said. He appealed to Arab Jurists, to publicise the extent of the Palestinian people's plight in all international forums, and to work towards restoring their just and legitimate rights.

Differences among Arab countries are only marginal and should be set aside as only through joint Arab action can the Arab governments fulfill the aspirations and objectives of the Arab people, Mr. Tarawneh said.

AFJ President Shabib Al Malik said cooperation between the

Zionists and the enemies of the Arab Nation has enabled the Israelis to invade Lebanon and then establish de facto occupation of the country. This situation has been characterised by ugly crimes committed against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples", he said.

Referring to the Iraq-Iran war, Mr. Malik said that "all Arabs have a national duty to support Iraq and to aid its endeavours to defend the Arab Nation. Despite the various peaceful initiatives which Iraq has accepted, Iran persists in its aggression and refuses to stop the war, Mr. Malik said. He called on Arab Jurists to help bring about a peaceful solution to the Gulf war.

Also addressing the opening session was Jordanian Association of Jurists President Adib Halaseh, who outlined the AFJ's activities on the local and international levels. He also paid tribute to Arab Jurists in the occupied lands and praised their heroic solidarity in the face of Israel's aggressive policies.

The meeting, which continues at the Regency Palace Hotel in Amman, is being attended by delegates from Jordan, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Kuwait, Sudan, North Yemen, South Yemen, Syria, Libya and Palestine. The Baghdad-based AFJ was founded by the Arab League in 1975.

Islamic bank meeting to convene in Jeddah

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will participate in the Islamic Development Bank's board of governors' meeting, which is due to open in Jeddah early in March.

On the agenda will be the bank's activities over the past year and its project finance programmes for Arab and Islamic countries. The governors will also elect a new board chairman and deputy and will fix a data and venue for the governors' eighth annual meeting.

Jordan will be represented at the meeting by Finance Minister Salem Masadeh, who will chair the meetings, and Jordanian Central Bank Governor Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi.

The bank, founded in 1975, has 45 members from various Arab and Islamic countries. It aims to foster and consolidate economic development and to innovate social projects in its member countries. The bank's major shareholders are Saudi Arabia (26.22 per cent), Libya (16.38 per cent), the United Arab Emirates (14.4 per cent) and Kuwait (13.11 per cent).

In Jordan the bank has financed such firms as the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the Maritime Lines Company, the Jordan Cement Factory Company and a number of projects undertaken by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Continued from page 1

'No request from Jordan for U.S. arms'

On a related subject, Mr. Romberg said the United States has not yet received the text of comments made by Jordan's Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem in Beirut. Mr. Qasem reportedly said Jordan would not enter the Middle East peace negotiations unless Israel withdraws its forces from Lebanon and agrees not to build any more settlements on the occupied West Bank.

"The two matters be reported, to have mentioned," Mr. Romberg noted, "are issues in which we are also very interested. And

we have a clearly stated policy on that," President Reagan, in his Sept. 1 "fresh start" peace initiative, called for a freeze on building new settlements and expanding existing ones, and the United States is actively involved in trying to negotiate an agreement aimed at achieving the total withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

A majority of 51 members of the Senate joint the resolution offered by Republicans John Heinz and Rudy Boschwitz and Democrats Edward Kennedy and

Gary Hart opposing U.S. arms sales to Jordan, and calling on Jordan to enter direct peace negotiations with Israel.

The resolution—which was also offered by a majority in the 97th Congress—was sponsored by 37 Democrats and 14 Republicans.

In remarks on the Senate floor, Mr. Heinz warned against what he called a policy by "trying to buy peace with weapons of war."

Sen. Kennedy said, "Our first priority must be peace, not another escalation of the arms race in the Middle East."

Both contended Israel's security would be endangered by such sales.

Mr. Heinz said the administration has not announced its intention to sell specific arms to Jordan, but is reported to have discussed the sale of highly advanced weapons with Jordanian officials. These weapons are said to include F-5G and F-16 aircraft, portable Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, sidewinder air-to-air missiles and laser-guided bombs.

Elizabeth begins U.S. tour

Security was tight as the 5,769-ton royal yacht steamed into the harbour after a leisurely journey from Mexico. Police marksmen with automatic weapons stood guard on nearby rooftops.

Twenty demonstrators holding up a banner reading "Home Rights for Ireland" stood on the shore, but there was no other sign of promised protests.

There was a holiday spirit on the docks, where 3,000 invited guests mapped out for a glimpse of the queen. Thousands more lined the coastline around San Diego Bay, clapping and cheering. Some wore hats with signs on them reading "Welcome Liz and Phil." Others held up a sign reading "Welcome to the Land of the Free."

The queen will be given a star-studded Hollywood reception when she visits 20th Century Fox studios Sunday night.

Police chief describes Assut violence

Muslim fundamentalists that the groups grew larger with encouragement and later resorted to violence.

The defendants, members of the outlawed Jihad (holy struggle) organisation, are accused of plotting to overthrow the government and killing 66 policemen in the town of Assut two days after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat on Oct. 6, 1981.

To the shouts of some defendants who called him a liar, Gen. Soliman said he first heard shots in the town on Oct. 8 while praying in a mosque with other police officials.

"I ran out of the mosque to see what was happening and saw dozens of unarmed terrified policemen running away. I saw four men shooting at my troops," Gen. Soliman told the court.

He said he later went with the security chief to the police headquarters, by then controlled by Muslim groups and tried to break in, using an armoured car, but failed when a bullet hit one of the tyres.

Gen. Soliman's testimony appeared to conform with that of the town's former security chief, Maj.-Gen. Mahmoud Youssef Eid, who said on Tuesday that fundamentalists controlled the police headquarters for five hours before they were overpowered by special police troops.

"When we finally entered, there were only bodies and wounded men," Gen. Soliman said. He did not say whether any fundamentalists were among the dead and wounded in the building.

SOPEXA

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 Telephone: 666255
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 Telegram: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan.

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Here come the heroes

IT may sound odd to strike a similarity between the British electrician, who reportedly liked being hero so much that he started fires only to have the glory of putting them out himself, and each of the 51 American senators who last Thursday joined forces to block U.S. arms sales to Jordan even before a request was made. But, all the same, there is not a big difference between arson and political hypocrisy, for both involve the victimisation of some people or a cause.

Surely, the honourable gentlemen of Capitol Hill, being the elected representatives of the American people and experienced politicians they are supposed to be, cannot be so easily misled to believe that Israel's security will be threatened by providing Jordan with American weapons, unless of course their access to the Library of Congress' records on Israeli and Arab armaments is totally blocked. Their contention that the weapon card must be played by the U.S. to get Jordan to enter direct peace negotiations with Israel also has to be wrong. Jordan, the senators and others might rec-

all, did not yield to whatever American pressure resulting from the Camp David accords, and its price for joining the peace process now or ever is not, and cannot be, American jets and armour. Peace, based on justice and made to last, is what we Arabs, especially here in Jordan, have always sought and will continue to seek, regardless of what others thought or did.

The move by the 51 senators does not come as a surprise to us, as we have seen and heard worse things coming from Washington before. What is even less surprising is the fact that the bipartisan resolution, sponsored by Republican Senators John Heinz and Rudy Boschwitz and Democrats Edward Kennedy and Gary Hart, comes at this particular time when Israel would do anything to prevent the American president and his administration from pursuing their proposals for the Middle East. If there is something to be learned from this, it is that the fire that 51 U.S. senators are trying to start might end up injuring some Americans but would produce no congressional heroes.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. must thwart Israeli 'veto'

Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin Friday outlined his government's position in relation to the American peace proposals regarding: an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon; the freezing of new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza and a genuine participation by Palestinian representatives in the future peace negotiations.

According to the Israeli prime minister, a withdrawal from Lebanon can in no way be considered a priority, thus impeding any practical solution to the Palestinian problem. This shows that Israel's main objective continues to be to manipulate the Lebanese situation in order to deflect attention

away from the more fundamental Palestinian question.

Therefore the Israeli leadership continues to test the United States' credibility. President Reagan's recent statements, which contained outstandingly positive aspects, are challenged by Israel's prime minister even before the Israeli cabinet session to debate them. In the face of this, now more than ever the U.S. administration must demonstrate its ability to thwart what has effectively become an Israeli veto, which has to date stymied all its peace proposals.

Al Dustour: Israeli hatred turns in on itself

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin called upon the Israelis to renounce hatred and love one another. Israeli Head of State Navon gave a similar warning in a recent interview with the French magazine *Nouvelle Observateur*. One can only deduce that the Israeli leadership have become frightened that their extremist and aggressive attitude towards the Arabs has now become a general trend in Israeli society.

Nonetheless, warnings about a possible civil war in Israel have long been made by several Israelis who felt that a people capable of persecuting Palestinians and of perpetrating the indiscriminate massacre of civilians had the potential for self-destruction.

Using terrorist and aggressive means, the Zionist

were able to set up a state; but could the continued use of such means go on without affecting the mentality of those who make up such an entity? The war-lords are now complaining that these contradictions are threatening the peace and integrity of Israeli society, but could it really be expected that militaristic hysteria and ceaseless war-mongering would produce any different results?

Those who once fell victim to Zionist propaganda which promised the peaceful and democratic paradise called the Israeli state now find it ironically tragic that they have to encounter the fiercest of all injustices and the loss of hope for a peaceful life, due to the very basic elements led to the initial founding of the state.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. tries to tame the monster it created

President Reagan's recent statements demonstrate a clear and basic gap between how the Americans and Israelis view how to handle the Lebanese problem and the greater question of peace and security in the Middle East.

The U.S. president believes that the continued Israeli occupation of Lebanon weakens the chances for peace in the region, and might jeopardise all efforts at seeking solution to the Palestinian problem.

Washington, which now realises that peace is the best way of protecting Israel, is suffering the consequences of its unlimited military support for Is-

rael, which in turn over emphasised the Israeli concept of security which is reliant upon the "citadel" mentality.

Israel's main concern at present is to keep U.S. diplomacy out of its way, and try to manipulate the time factor to realise its annexationist and hegemonistic dreams. This danger has long been pinpointed by Jordan, which has always seen the security of all states and peoples in the region as dependent upon the establishment of a just and durable peace that would guarantee the well-being and prosperity of all.

15 billion barrels of oil off Canada's coast Row over who owns what

By Paul Majendie
 Reuter

ST JOHN'S, Newfoundland — Off Canada's bleak Atlantic coast lies a treasure chest that will stay shut until the federal government and Newfoundland agree on how to turn the key and unlock up to 15 billion barrels of oil.

Canada has resources that other countries can only dream about, but when it comes to managing those untold riches, all the divisions and rivalries in its two-tier, federal-provincial system of government come huddling to the surface. The two-year row over who owns what oil Newfoundland is a classic case. Now, with the latest round of ministerial talks broken off in mutual acrimony, the courts are to plunge into the dispute while the treasure trove stays buried.

The province of Newfoundland, a latecomer which joined the Canadian confederation in 1949, argues that it owns the offshore resources which could help Canada win energy self-sufficiency. But the federal government in Ottawa insists on having ultimate control over the pace and manner of development, and so far they have been unable to agree on sharing the wealth.

While that gap remains un-

bridgeable, the oil companies keep sinking exploratory wells in the hostile sea, though commercial production will not start before 1990.

Eighty-four men lost their lives in the hunt for that oil when the giant oil rig Ocean Ranger turned turtle in a raging storm last February off the Hibernia Field.

Hibernia, often likened to the Forties Field in the equally unforgiving North Sea, has potential reserves of up to 1.8 billion barrels. Surveys have shown there could be 10-15 billion barrels altogether off the east coast.

In the Arctic, Canada faces a major technological challenge in the battle to wrest oil from the Beaufort Sea. In Alberta, huge reserves in the oil sands cannot be economically tapped until mining methods are improved. But off Newfoundland, politics are proving to be a bigger problem than passing icebergs.

The supreme court is now going to look into the whole question of offshore jurisdiction but Newfoundland's Energy Minister William Marshall stressed: "There has to be a political solution to the problem. It's going to be won eventually in the court of public opinion."

Newfoundland, with Canada's highest unemployment and lowest

per capita income, got caught once before on an energy issue and has since become very wary of what it calls "the mainland."

Under a contract Newfoundland now regrets, the neighbouring province of Quebec buys hydro-electric power from Newfoundland and sells at big profit in the United States.

Mr. Marshall told Reuters in an interview: "We were stabbed to death in that case. It causes us to be firmer this time." Last month he and federal Energy Minister Jean Chretien confidently announced that they had the basis for an agreement on offshore revenue-sharing and management of resources.

But Mr. Marshall insisted on the understanding being put in writing and that proved to be a sticking point. Mr. Chretien told reporters: "I'm terribly sad because I thought very honestly we had come quite close to an agreement."

The political squabble unfortunately coincided with disarray in OPEC that could spell lower prices in the world oil market. But while that might hurt investment, Steven Millan of Newfoundland's Petroleum Directorate, a provincial watchdog agency, argues that the offshore is just too bright an area to leave alone.

COME TO THINK OF IT...

Dismissal is no rejection

Ibrahim Abu Nah

One didn't have to go to Algiers to see what was happening in the Palestine National Council's (PNC) meetings. Algiers came almost to everybody as a shock. They thought that the PNC had "rejected" the so-called Reagan plan for peace in the Middle East and that perhaps all hope has faded away as we are quickly approaching the midnight hour.

I might sound a lot more optimistic, which I am not, but trying only to pick up my steps rationally in the darkness.

While doing so, I liked the BBC's preciseness in its choice of words to convey that piece of news. It said that the PNC had "dismissed" (rather than "rejected") the plan as inadequate for realising the hopes and dreams of the Palestinians in a state of their own in Palestine. But then nobody, including the

Americans, had said or implied that the Reagan plan was adequate or that it would establish a state for the Palestinians. And in that sense the PNC did exactly what it was expected to do: State facts.

If anybody had expected the Palestinians or the PNC to sing praise to Reagan or his plan, he (or she) must have been grossly mistaken. The Americans, in fact, had stated openly that they did not expect the Arab plan to satisfy the Arabs as a whole or any single Arab country or entity. Only an Arab plan can satisfy the Arabs. And it seems to me that the Arabs, including the PLO, have done just that by adopting the Fex Arab plan.

It is significant that the Americans did not reject or dismiss the Arab plan, adopted at the

Fex summit last September, because it was not addressed to the United States and therefore the U.S. administration did not have to accept it or reject it. It might have considered it more like an Arab celebration of intentions or more of an Arab interpretation of Resolution 242 to which the Arabs are entitled.

The question now is: How can the Reagan plan and the Arab one mesh together? It is not very difficult to see that. The following observations might provide some clues:

Much as the Fex plan was not addressed to the Americans, the Reagan plan was not addressed to the PLO. So any rejection or dismissal by either party of the other's plan does not affect in the least the on going peace process. On the other hand, the so-called Re-

gan plan is not a plan yet, but is an initiative stating beforehand the American interpretation and position on the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is a statement of general American directions. To call it a plan is misleading.

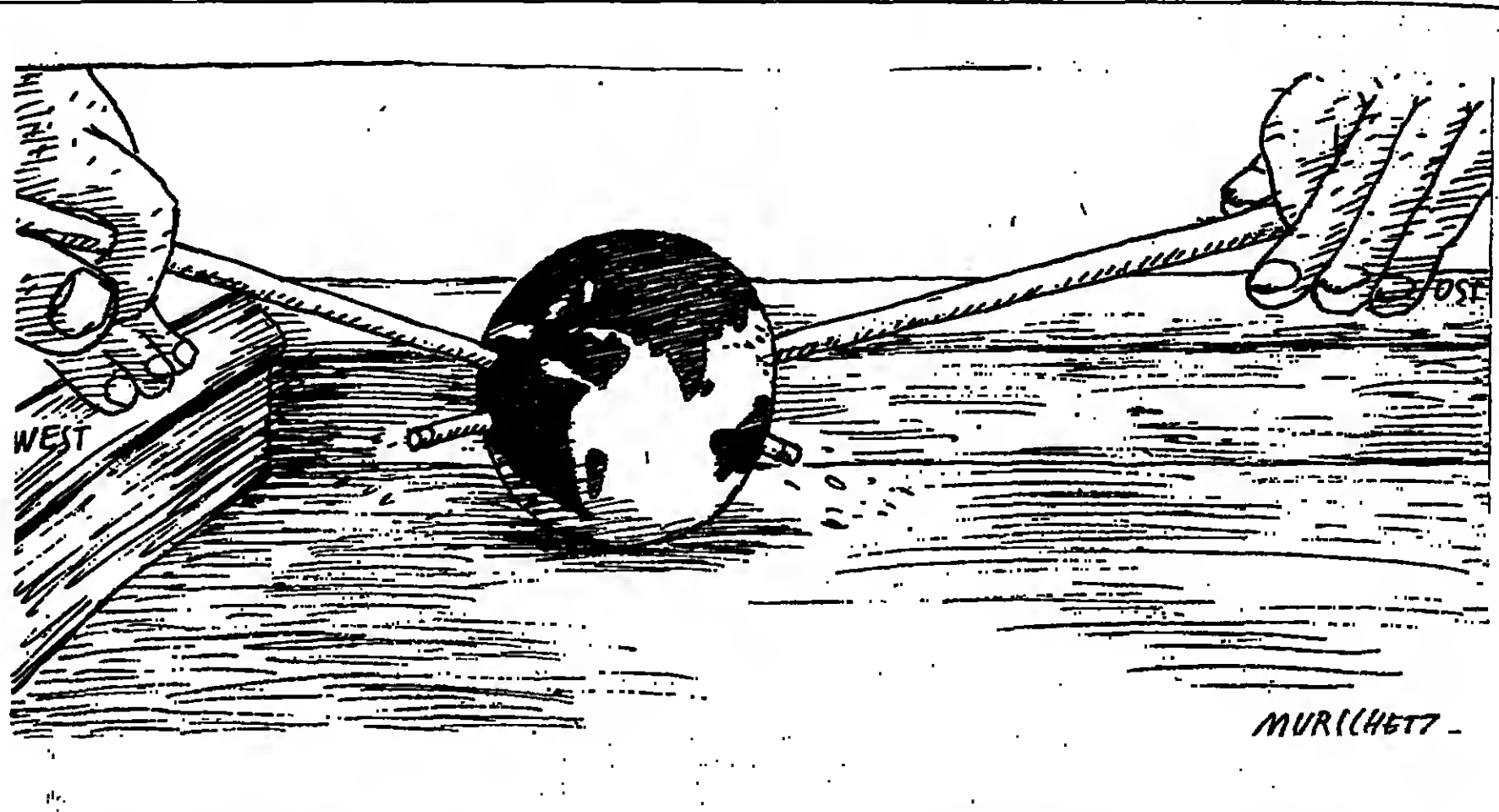
The PNC has endorsed Mr. Arafat's line and given him a large sum to move in. By endorsing the Jordanian-Palestinian distinctive link, the PNC in fact gave Jordan also the room needed to take advantage of the American relatively good intentions and make use of the "positive" elements in those intentions in order to rescue the land.

One can see the resolutions of the PNC as a vote of trust in Jordan and whatever moves it needs to take. The PNC would, of course, have to debate and approve anything that might be

given to the Palestinians in the end, not before it is given. That is how parliaments work.

It was unthinkable of the PNC to endorse the "Reagan plan" being what it is. And had it endorsed it, the Palestinian meeting would have deserved the accusation levelled at it by some quarters as having been stage-managed.

In the light of this, one expects some significant Arab moves in the near future. It might be also said now, that Yasser Arafat deserves a tip of the hat for the way he has managed to preserve the Palestinian national unity through a democratic process and come to grips with the realities of the situation at the same time. In very difficult circumstances, he has proved once again that he is a survivor and that peace may yet survive.



Churches in NATO countries have become a pressure group for peace

By John Rogers
 Reuter

LONDON — Christian churches in NATO countries are playing a growing role in the raging debate over nuclear weapons, often in conflict with governments. They have become a pressure group for peace — though not necessarily for nuclear disarmament — in intense argument over NATO plans to base 572 new U.S. missiles in West Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands from next December.

In some countries, such as the Netherlands, church leaders are in the vanguard of the anti-nuclear movement opposed to the Western alliance's missile deployment plan. In others, such as France and Belgium, the church has played little role. But in some other NATO nations, both Roman Catholic and Protestant churches are taking a stand in the nuclear debate, one of this year's biggest political issues.

They are increasingly scrutinising government policies, coming out against the first use of nuclear arms in warfare, and questioning NATO's doctrine of deterrence — building up a nuclear force to discourage the Soviet Union from using its own.

The churches, increasingly vocal, are adding their moral authority to public concern over the nuclear arms race and stressing the dangers of war with weapons of mass destruction.

In Britain, the Church of England stepped back this month from a looming row with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher — already combating an active anti-nuclear movement — by rejecting a working party's report advocating unilateral dismantling of the British nuclear deterrent. Instead the church's ruling synod urged Britain and its NATO allies "to maintain adequate forces to guard against nuclear blackmail and to deter nuclear and non-nuclear aggressors."

But it also went a step beyond government policy by calling on all nations to renounce the first use of nuclear arms — a pledge which the NATO allies say they might not be able to honour if the

Soviet Union started a conventional war and seemed to be gaining the upper hand.

Pope John Paul, head of the Roman Catholic Church, has appealed passionately this year for mutual and balanced disarmament.

"The powers which confront each other must be able to undertake the various stages of disarmament together, and commit themselves to each stage in equal degree," he said in a new year's address.

The Pope has also said that the policy of deterrence could be justified as a step to disarmament.

"In current condition," he said last June, "deterrence based on balance, certainly not as an end in itself as a step on the way towards a progressive disarmament, may still be judged morally acceptable."

Deferring only

A group of American Roman Catholic bishops sparked a row over nuclear policy with a draft pastoral letter last November saying nuclear arms should be used as a deterrent only to promote arms control — and never in response to non-nuclear attacks or against civilian targets.

Their stand provoked opposition from conservative churchmen and from the Reagan administration, which said the draft letter failed to give enough recognition to U.S. efforts towards arms control agreements with Moscow.

U.S. bishops are expected to endorse the controversial letter in May, without major changes. Although the Vatican neither approved nor condemned the U.S. draft, its growing preoccupation with the nuclear issue was underscored when it sponsored talks last month between the U.S. bishops and their colleagues from six Western European countries.

The meeting asserted the church's moral authority to speak on issues of war and peace. Italian Roman Catholic bishops earlier expressed solidarity with their American colleagues, saying they feared NATO's plan to base 112 U.S. Cruise missiles in Sicily was

the first step in "the atomic rearmament of Europe."

In West Germany, Roman Catholic bishops meet next to formulate their own pastoral letter, which church sources say will echo the U.S. bishops' criticism of nuclear deterrence. But the traditionally conservative West German bishops have agreed to delay publishing the letter until after general elections on March 6 to avoid clouding the re-election prospects of Christian Democratic Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the sources say.

West German Protestant church groups are active in the anti-nuclear movement, as are those in Scandinavian countries.

The Protestant churches in Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland are preparing to hold a world peace conference in April in the Swedish cathedral city of Uppsala. The aim will be a joint Christian statement to put pressure on politicians for concrete steps towards detente and disarmament.

Dutch condemn

The Dutch Council of Churches condemns the possession and use of nuclear weapons while the Dutch Roman Catholic church is due to publish a pastoral letter on nuclear arms this spring.

Belgium's Catholic church has so far kept aloof from the political debate, although several Catholic organisations are active in anti-nuclear campaigns.

The Dutch and Belgian governments are both awaiting the outcome of U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva before deciding on deployment of 48 U.S. missiles each country is earmarked to receive under the NATO plan. Christian churches in the Soviet Union and East European countries generally support officially sponsored peace movements backing Communist government policies.

But the church in East Germany, with a motto of "swords into ploughshares," leads a small independent peace movement which has called for an alternative to military service and an end to pre-military training in schools.

Non-aligned summit may force Iran, Iraq to end war

By Phil Davison
 Reuter

BAHRAIN — Iran and Iraq will come under pressure at next month's Non-aligned summit in New Delhi to end their 30-month-old Gulf war.

The war has cost the two Gulf neighbours thousands of lives and billions of dollars and is seen by many Non-aligned nations as a serious threat to stability in the Middle East. They are concerned that the conflict — in which most Arab countries back Iraq but others, notably Syria, support non-Arab Iran — splitting the Arab world during crucial Middle East peace moves over Lebanon and the Palestinian problem.

Because of the Gulf's strategic importance as an oil lifeline, they also fear intervention by the United States and the Soviet Union if either side makes a major breakthrough which could upset the balance of power in the region.

Both Iran and Iraq are members of the 97-member Non-Aligned Movement and are likely to engage in heavy verbal combat at the summit, opening on March 7.

Previous peace efforts by the movement, like others by the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, have failed to stem the fighting. The latest call came from the U.N. Security Council which issued an urgent appeal last Monday for an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf war and for withdrawal of forces to internationally recognised boundaries.

Peace team

The New Delhi summit may try to reactivate a peace team — the foreign ministers of Cuba, India and Zambia and a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) — which visited Iran and Iraq in 1981 and 1982.

Iraq has called for Iraq's expulsion from the Non-Aligned Movement for invading Iran in September 1980 and Iraq has demanded that Iran be ousted. The summit had been scheduled for the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, last September but was postponed and transferred to New Delhi after Iranian pressure.

The move means Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, instead of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, will be chairman of the movement for the next three years. Western diplomats expect Iraq to try to redress the diplomatic setback by

insisting Baghdad be the venue of the next Non-aligned summit in three years.

Official sources in Baghdad said President Hussein hoped the New Delhi summit would boost international efforts towards a negotiated end to the war.

Iraqi officials say privately, however, that they do not believe Iran's clerical rulers will easily abandon their demand for \$150 billion in war reparations and "punishment of the aggressor."

A minority of diplomats in Baghdad believe Iran might be prepared to go to the negotiations table under pressure from the Non-Aligned Movement. If so, Iran would want to go from a position of strength and would probably try to continue its latest military offensive, launched on Feb. 7, until the summit, these diplomats said.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi prompted speculation that the Algerians were preparing the ground for negotiations in New Delhi when he said last weekend that Iran had dropped one of its demands — that President Hussein should step down as a condition for peace talks.

But the signs were not conclusive. Mr. Ibrahimi said the demand had been dropped as long ago as last July, when Iran's Prime Minister Hossein Mousavi visited Algeria.

Since then, Iranian leaders such as parliamentarian speaker Haj-Atolleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani have stated on numerous occasions that Iran was fighting to overthrow President Hussein.

They said the Algerian statement could indicate that Iran wanted it known that the overthrow of President Hussein was not a specific demand. Mr. Ibrahimi, who was in Tehran last month, said Iran's other conditions for talks — Iraqi withdrawal to the internationally recognised borders between Iran and Iraq and payment of war compensation — remained a stumbling block to peace.

He said Algeria, a leading Non-Aligned country with a record of successful diplomacy involving Iran, would continue its mediation efforts. Algeria brought Iran and Iraq together in 1975 for an agreement defining their border and mediated between the United States and Iran over the release of American hostages from Tehran in 1981.

هذا هو العمل

The real cost of war: A doctor's experience in Beirut

"The deaths and suffering caused by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon shocked the world when shown in newspapers and on television," says Dr. Amal Shamma. "But the reality was much, much worse."

Dr. Shamma should know. As a paediatrician working in Beirut, she has had first-hand experience of Lebanon's tragic history of violence from the 1975 civil war to last summer's Israeli invasion. In Amman recently, she gave an exclusive interview to Afifah A. Kaloti.



Dr. Shamma is head of the department of paediatrics and of emergency services at the Berber Medical Centre in Beirut. She obtained her medical degree at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1968 and then spent four and a half years at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Maryland, USA.

Last October she paid a return visit to the USA at the invitation of the Washington-based Arab Women's Council, to talk to American audiences about the human reality of what happened in Lebanon during and after the June 1982 Israeli invasion.

Dr. Shamma—an Arab-American who has worked for seven and a half years in the Berber Medical Centre—said that the types of casualties admitted to Beirut's hospitals during last summer's Israeli invasion were totally different from those injuries inflicted on people through all the years of the civil war.

"The perspective of the human sufferings and human costs was not adequately covered by the U.S. press, and it was very important for people all over the world to understand what had happened from a human point of view," she said.

Citing the inhuman actions of the Israeli invasion, Dr. Shamma pointed out that the casualties received were mutilated with severe multiple injuries and many of them were received in "bits and pieces". "I am not exaggerating, I am trying to be as accurate as possible."

The kinds of weapons used by the Israeli forces caused injuries which had not been before during the civil war, she said. "However, I am not justifying the civil war and I am not suggesting that some wars are good, and some are bad. All are bad and tragic," she said.

The Berber Medical Centre in Beirut is the second largest hospital after the American University Hospital (AUH). "Although every single specialist was represented in the hospital, with highly trained qualified staff, good organisation and administration, and seven and a half years' experience, in June 1982 we were still not prepared for what happened," she said.

Physicians during the civil war felt that they could help cases brought in to casualty, but during the Israeli invasion the physicians' failure rate was much higher because "the extent of the injuries and the scale of casualties were so much greater."

During the Israeli shelling of Beirut, the number of people who were brought in dead on arrival was much higher than the hospital had ever received before — between 20 and 30 per cent. "The serious casualties who required emergency operations rated between 50 and 60 per cent," Dr. Shamma added.

Unlike the civil war, a very small percentage had minor injuries. "Bullet injuries did not exist at all, for it was not face-to-face battle, it was always from a distance," she commented. Bombs not less than half a ton were continuously dropped from

planes. "Each one of them could level a ten-storey building — hence the massive casualties at all times."

The type of weapons used by the Israeli forces were new to Lebanon, she said, and this had a profound effect on the type of injuries sustained.

"Cluster bombs, used by the Israelis, are either dropped from planes or shot from mortars. When they explode in the air, 500 to 600 small bombs — 'fitting in the palm of the hand' — are released."

Children are mostly the victims of cluster bombs "for the pieces released are shiny, and they are of different shapes looking like bats, small cylinders and balls, attracting the attention of children," Dr. Shamma said. If these pieces do not explode on immediate contact with the ground, they definitely do if touched by anyone. "A lot of children who found these small objects picked them up, and were brought to hospital either without hands or arms or legs or feet."

Other cases were unidentified, for they were cut up in pieces by fragmentation bombs. These bombs, she added, would explode in the air or on impact into very large, knife-like pieces of shrapnel. "Arms and legs were cut off and sometimes heads. This kind of bomb caused appalling mutilation and lot of the injured died because of the severity of the wounds."

The hospital also admitted patients burnt by phosphoric bombs. These bombs were used extensively in all areas of Beirut. "Their effect is like sitting in fire, they continue to burn the patient unless the phosphorus is removed. Such a situation should be treated fast."

These bombs, she added, are dropped from the air, or shot from gun-boats or tanks. It is often difficult to identify that the burn is caused by phosphorus and it is not easy to find and pull out. "We received a very large number of burn cases, but only 25 victims were identified definitely as being burnt by phosphoric bombs. We actually picked the phosphorus out of their bodies. Only three of these were combatants and the rest civilians."

Also used in Beirut were contaminated objects dropped from planes which caused very severe allergic skin reactions. "These objects were pieces of paper and toys which when picked up developed skin swelling and itching," Dr. Shamma emphasised that these weapons were used in all areas of the city "not necessarily against military targets".

Commenting on the intended Israeli targets she said, "The Israelis keep on saying that they chose certain places in aiming their artillery, and I believe them. I am sure that when they aimed at civilian areas they meant to aim at those areas."

"After the ceasefire, I went out of the hospital to see the damage from the shelling, and in a stretch of road that extended for a length of only one kilometre from the hospital, four apartment buildings were completely levelled," says Dr. Shamma. "These buildings were not military, they were not arms storage depots, and there was not a single tank in the area to justify any claim that the Israelis might have been mistaken."

Most of the casualties could not be saved. "Even if they had been

given the chance to be treated in the most advanced hospitals in the U.S. equipped with the most sophisticated equipment, I am sure they would not have been able to handle these injuries any better than us."

The weapons used were so effective that most victims, she said, either died or ended up seriously handicapped. "Some 25 per cent of the patients admitted to our hospital ended up seriously handicapped. About 90 per cent of the casualties were civilians and 25 per cent of these were children below the age of 15."

Most of the children's injuries were amputations, severe burns and paralysis, she added. "Our physicians' wisdom could not match the weapons being used. The weapons really did what they were supposed to do, and that was to kill people in masses," she commented.

The Berber Hospital itself was shelled randomly from July 11 to August 1, and continuously from August 1 to August 12. The hospital, in west Beirut, is very close to the so-called "green line" — an unofficial line which divided Beirut into west and east — and this area was continuously exposed to danger.

"Beyond any shadow of doubt, the Israelis shelled the hospital deliberately and intentionally," said Dr. Shamma. "Red Crescent flags were lifted up on the roof identifying it as being a hospital, but to no avail." The shelling of the hospital, Dr. Shamma said, paralysed its ability to function.

"It caused a gradual loss in staff as well as a gradual loss in wards and facilities including operating rooms, laboratories, generators, equipment, medications and food," she said.

During the civil war, despite the difficulties and danger, the staff residing in hospital did not leave and the day staff kept coming back and forth. "The Israeli shelling, however, spread fear among the staff and a very high percentage of them left the hospital," she said.

Within the first couple of weeks of Israeli shelling, Dr. Shamma said, the staff which totalled 92 people, went down to a total of only 15. There was more than one reason for this high percentage of staff loss. "Some left out of fear, many were trapped outside the city, and some left during the last days of the blockade," she explained. The last category left because their children could not survive in the absence of water and food supplies, and hence "they decided that their children should not bear anymore sacrifice," she explained.

"They kept holding on and on until most of them reached a breaking point, and every day we woke up to find somebody had gone." Consequently most of the wards were shut down because of the inavailability of adequate staff. The 200 beds were reduced to 135 concentrated in eight wards, including portable beds spread in corridors, "so that we had all the patients together enabling the small number of staff to handle the situation."

However, the effect of congested beds in a small space was that plenty of patients got infections because of the uncovered wounds. "Wounds caused by mis-

siles should not be covered, but with crowded patients it was a natural breeding ground for bacteria," she explained. When the infection rate reached 80 to 90 per cent, infectious cases were isolated in one room while the other rooms were decontaminated.

"During the period July 11 to August 1, there was this basic problem that we were trying to run the hospital, trying to save patients and keep down infection all at the same time."

With the continuous shelling which started August 1 to August 12 the wards were not even relatively safe anymore. "The 60 patients still with us by that time had to be put in one room on portable beds and stretchers and on top of each other. Infection became rampant for second time."

By mid-August, the remaining patients ended up in corridors and in the basement of the hospital instead of being in beds. "The basement is a series of cement corridors with no ventilation and no sanitary installation," she explained. The basement of any building was dangerous, for with the continuous shelling one could be burned alive but "at least, sheltering underground we did not hear the horrible voice of explosions."

"It was of course, summer and with no fans we were most of the time in a state of near-suffocation. What added to our ventilation problem was that the huge 150mm bombs exploding on our ward all the time to pass around wet masks enabling us all to continue breathing."

By August 12 the only thing that saved the hospital from running out of everything was the fact that the hospital was running out of patients, said Dr. Shamma.

Israeli soldiers entered the hospital on September 16, adding to the destruction. The Israelis, after occupying the hospital, claimed they were looking for armed men and arms caches. "They shot at people from the hospital, using it as a military base, totally disrespecting the fact that a hospital should not be used in this way," says Dr. Shamma.

"During my tour to the United States, I was always bugged by the statement that if hospitals were shelled during the Israeli invasion, it was because they were being used as Palestinian military bases and had arms hidden in them." As an eyewitness, Dr. Shamma made it clear to U.S. officials that this was never true. "The only time that the hospital was used as a military base was when the Israelis invaded the hospital," she asserted.

The Israelis claimed that they were going to the top floors in search of armed men. Dr. Shamma pointed out that instead, they went into an annex adjacent to the hospital building, which included staff residential quarters and surgical clinics. "They went into the living quarters of the nurses, the physicians' clinics and laboratories; they broke down the doors, stole valuables, and destroyed the equipment."

Worse vandalism was to follow. "In one clinic in the building next to the hospital," says Dr. Shamma, "the Israelis defecated on the desk, sprayed ink on all the paintings, and stole 13,000

Lebanese pounds from a drawer. In one of the residences, they pulled out all the sheets from the closet, spread them on the floor and defecated on them."

This sort of vandalism brings disrespect on those who perpetrate it — not on us as they thought it would," said Dr. Shamma.

Despite the damage within a month after the Israeli invasion, the Berber hospital became functional again. "We have been able to retrieve a few rooms and one operating theatre and we are steadily trying to make one floor after another available for use," says Dr. Shamma.

Beirut cannot afford to lose a major hospital, she added, for it already has a shortage of hospital beds.

The rebuilding of the Berber hospital is especially important because the Red Crescent hospitals do not function on the scale they used to. Dr. Shamma explained. The Red Crescent used to treat the poor to go to other hospitals.

"The rebuilding of our hospital will take some time because it was extensively damaged," she pointed out. And — as a privately owned establishment — it depends entirely on its own income to carry out reconstruction and resume normal duties," she added.

Dr. Shamma says there are going to be subtle, long-lasting effects on people as a result of the Israeli invasion. "During the shelling all the children were terrified to death. Children saw dead people and ugly scenes that they should not have seen. 'Lots of mothers have reported their children's behavioural changes. They do not play as much as they used to; most of the time they stick to their fathers and mothers, due to their fear that they might lose them any time, just as they had seen the loss of the parents of their relatives, friends and neighbours.' Some children now describe the horrible battles as if they were a cartoon film."

For adults, Dr. Shamma said, death became a normal part of their lives. Some expressed their fears by completely withdrawing from emotional involvements and some by getting very attached to people. "Most people became very fatalistic, and this made them survive and enable them to function," she added.

The difficulties, the human sufferings and tragedies experienced by the hospital staff through all the years of war since 1975 taught them the most important principles in handling mass casualties. "The hospital is not a military one, nor was it equipped to admit and treat large numbers of casualties at the same time."

Hospital organisation in such a situation has to revolve around the emergency room in the first place, and the other work of the hospital comes second. The first thing we learnt was to make use of what we had at hand in terms of both equipment and personnel," she said.

The personnel rose to the challenge. "I remember one particular medical student who had just registered for his first year in 1975 when the civil war erupted; he worked in the emergency room continually without attending one class that year."

The personnel included pharmacy students and technicians, laboratory technicians, nurses, and a hospital porter who "was big and muscular," she added.

Through the years of war, all personnel were trained in first aid, which included resuscitation, stopping haemorrhage, and evaluation of clinical injury. This freed the physician who was supposed to handle first aid for more important duties involving medical judgements.

"We learnt the principles of triage, something we had not been taught at medical school," she said. Triage, Dr. Shamma explained, was to divide casualties in groups of priority to maximise the number of survivors. During the Israeli invasion and on occasions during the civil war when we were hit by ear bombs, the hospital used to bring in people on mass, a group of 20 to 40 casualties who would be dumped in piles on the floor, she said.

"The first duty of the physician was to go through the pile of bodies to find out who was alive and who was dead. Out of those alive a decision had to be taken on the treatment priorities," she explained. The living were then divided into three groups. Casualties with injuries not constituting an immediate threat to life had to wait "no matter what the injury, even with major soft tissue injuries," Dr. Shamma said.

The second group were the severely injured casualties judged to be hopeless cases and beyond help. These were mostly cases of severe head damage, extreme loss of blood and major haemorrhage — cases who reached hospital on the verge of death or whose blood could not be replaced soon enough to prevent extensive and permanent brain injury.

The third group were those patients who had very severe wounds which could lead to death if not treated immediately," she explained, and the medical staff got to work on these immediately.

One shortcoming of the triage system, Dr. Shamma pointed out, was that it took physicians some time to realise that patients who were lying quietly with no blood as evidence of major injury could die in 15 minutes. "We actually thought at first that the priority cases were those who were screaming in pain and the bloodied, and hence we disregarded the calm patients," she explained. Later, the physicians discovered that the quiet patients had small pieces of shrapnel lodged in their chests, causing major internal bleeding inside or a major haemorrhage.

Another difficulty of triage could be the immediate identification of dead casualties, especially in an atmosphere of crisis and fear. "Once we had a live man taken to the morgue, he was in a terrible mess. A couple of hours later he was found breathing. Then we managed to operate on him successfully."

The importance of maintaining an adequate staff was another important thing we learnt through the years of war. Dr. Shamma pointed out. The staff experienced some difficulties and failures in acquiring the necessary knowledge and learning the most

important principles in time of war.

The shortages of staff, medicines and food supplies were due largely to the fact that nobody expected Beirut to be Israel's next target after the invasion of southern Lebanon, and nobody envisaged a blockade of Beirut, she said.

During the seven and the half years of the civil war, the Berber hospital never ran seriously short of supplies. But during the first two weeks of the Israeli invasion more than half the stocks were consumed, for the drain on resources was much higher than anyone could envisage. "We could manage during the first blockade which lasted for ten days, but during the four-and-a-half-week blockade we ran out of everything."

"Even the Red Cross shipment which only just managed to reach us, did not help much for it was too small. We had patients who went on for 36 hours without any medications, and two patients died because of severe kidney injuries," she said.

Sometimes they could not get food distributed to the patients because of the continuous shelling. "We had to wait for volunteers who would go up to the kitchens and get some food. Even then we had to ration it for there was usually not enough," she explained.

Living with the constant possibility of getting injured, handicapped or killed, and coping daily with the tragedies all around her, did Dr. Shamma ever feel like giving up and moving to a safer place?

"I did not have time to fear, for I had such a lot of work to accomplish," she answered. "It was such a time that people needed me. Being a physician it was my duty and responsibility to heal patients and try to save casualties as much as possible. At such a time, she added, one learns how valuable human life is. "Every person is irreplaceable — an old man, an adult, a child, and a baby."

What was the worst incident she experienced? Dr. Shamma says no incident was worse than any other — they were all the worst that could possibly happen. What about her worst feeling? "The worst feeling I got was when somebody would come in dying and there was nothing that could be done for them. One could only watch the anguish of the people, relatives, friends — who wanted them to live and could not accept the fact that they would not. I used to feel very small when that happened — and it happened very many times," she said sadly.

Dr. Shamma believes the only way to ensure a greater survival rate in times of crisis is if countries establish a central disaster plan. This should involve the civil defence organisation and all major hospitals in certain areas. In coordination with other hospitals in the country, all student and university should be taught first aid. Military as well as civil physicians, surgeons and nurses should acquire a basic knowledge of the different types of injuries caused by certain weapons. "Such a disaster plan should be always ready in every country to be put into use at any time," Dr. Shamma concluded.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 Koran
16:30 Children's Cartoons
17:15 Black Horse
17:30 Circus
18:15 That's Incredible
19:00 Local Programme
19:30 Programmes Review
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:00 Arabic Series
21:30 Arabic Series
22:15 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Focus
21:10 Best Sellers: Shogun
22:00 News in English
22:15 Music in Time

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.00 KHz, SW

07:10 Morning Show
08:00 News Summary
09:05 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Pop Station
10:30 News Summary
10:35 Pop Station
10:40 News Bulletin
10:45 News Bulletin
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24:00 News Bulletin

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz
06:00 Newdesk 06:30 The Field Woods

Collection 06:45 Financial Review 06:55

Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09
British Press Review 07:15 Letterbox
07:30 Music For the Court of Louis XIV
07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newdesk
08:30 Big Band Sound 09:00
World News 09:09 News about Britain
09:15 From Our Own Correspondent
09:30 Sports and Comment 10:00 World
News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 The Pleasure
of the Yarn 11:00 World News 11:09
British Press Review 11:15 People and
Politics 11:45 Sports 12:15 Classical
Record Review 12:30 Religious
Service 12:40 World News 12:49 News
about Britain 13:15 Letter from America
13:30 Sports and Comment 14:00 World
News 15:00 Short Story 15:45 The
Saudi Jones Request Show 16:30 The
Disaster Centre 17:00 Radio Newdesk
17:15 Concert Hall 18:00 World News
18:09 Commentary 18:15 From Our
Own Correspondent 18:35 Financial
Review 18:45 Letter from America
19:00 World News 19:09 Meridian 19:40
Reflections 19:45 Sports 20:00 World
News 20:09 Commentary 20:15 Letter
from America 21:00 World News 21:15
Radio Newdesk 21:30 Animal, Vegetable
or Mineral? 21:50 Jazz Workshop
22:15 Marriages 22:30 World News
22:09 Commentary 22:15 Letterbox
22:30 Sunday Half-Hour 23:00 Lord
Hawke's Musical Meetings 23:15
The Pleasure of the Yarn 24:00 World News
00:09 Science in Action 00:40 Reflections
00:45 Sports 01:00 World News 01:09
Commentary 01:15 Letter from America
01:30 World News 01:39 Talking About
Music

VOICE OF AMERICA

KHz 1260, 5905, 7200, 15205, 11725

05:00 The Breakfast Show: 17:00 News
and Topical Reports 17:15 News
17:30 Issues in the News 18:00
Special English News 18:10 Words
and their Stories 18:15 Special English
feature: People in America 18:30 Music
USA: Standards 19:00 News and Topical
Reports 21:15 New Horizon 21:30 Issues
in the News 22:00 Special English:
News/World and their stories, feature
"People in America" 20:30 Music USA
(Standards) 21:00 News and Topical
Reports 21:15 New Horizon 21:30 Issues
in the News 22:00 Special English:
News/World and their stories 22:15
Concert Hall 23:00 News and New
Programmes 23:15 Cities Choice 23:30
Studio One

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* "Various Works: 25 to 27" by Stephen
Hayes, at the American Centre.
* "Les Matiers d'Art" at the French
Cultural Centre.
* Exhibition of neolithic tools, at the
French Cultural Centre.

FILM

* "Breaking Away" at the American
Centre at 6:00 p.m.
* Exhibition of neolithic tools, at the
French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre tel. 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Geithe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Hussien Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 84235

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes
over 100 years old. Also mosaics from
Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th
centuries). The Roman Theatre,
Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5
p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an
excellent collection of the antiquities of
Jordan. Jabal Al Qara' (Citadel Hill).
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. -
4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection
of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture
by contemporary Islamic artists from
most of the Muslim countries. A collection
of paintings by 19th Century
orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal
Luwibidh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. -
1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 20128.
Military Museum: Collection of military
memorabilia dating from the Arab

REVOLT OF 1916. Sports City, Amman.

Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed
Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to
150 year old items such as costumes,
weapons, musical instruments, etc.
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every
first and third Wednesday at the Tyche
Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings
every second and fourth Wednesday at
the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings
every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn,
1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday
at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman,
Eighteenth Circle. Tel. 815261.

TODAY'S EVENTS

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman
Catholic) Jabal Luwibidh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek
Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Res-
urrection) Jabal Amman, 43453.
Assyrian Catholic Church Ashrafieh,
71311.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh,
75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox)
Ashrafieh, 71751.
Assyrian International Church (Inter-
denominational) meets at Southern
Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.

CHURCHES

06:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:50 Lisbon, Rio De Janeiro (LA)
07:30 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:45 Agaba (RJ)
07:50 London (BA)
08:05 Cairo (RJ)
08:10 Beirut (ME)
08:15 Rome (AL)
08:20 Rome (RJ)
08:25 Athens (RJ)
08:30 Amman (RJ)
08:35 Cairo (RJ)
08:40 Beirut (RJ)
08:45 Baghdad (RJ)

SPORTS

United accepts the inevitable

LONDON (R) — Like an over-weight jogger suddenly confronted by a steep hill, Manchester United accepted the inevitable Saturday and left Liverpool to go on alone towards the English first division soccer championship.

United, who started the day 15 points in arrears, briefly threatened to close the gap when Dutch international Arnold Muhren shot them ahead in the 35th minute but Liverpool spurted ahead again when the evergreen Kenny Dalglish scored a breathtaking equaliser four minutes later.

With 14 games remaining, Liverpool have all but lapped United and Watford, whose 2-1 home win over European Cup holders Aston Villa took them into second place but still 14 points in arrears.

Liverpool and United, who will meet in the League Cup final at Wembley on March 26, attracted a crowd of 57,937—the biggest since the first division this season.

Thousands more were locked out and had to make do with a blow-by-blow account, courtesy of the cheers of the rival supporters.

There were few periods of silence, for United and Liverpool produced 90 minutes of non-stop excitement.

Veteran Scot Lou Macari, who

came on as substitute for the injured Kevin Moran in the 28th minute, set up the United goal with a superb 35-metre pass to Remi Moses.

The little midfielder promptly set Frank Stapleton free and although Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar parried the Irish striker's shot, Muhren was on hand to clip the rebound home.

Liverpool, chasing the championship for the sixth time in eight years, simply stepped up the pace in the face of such impertinence.

South African-born Craig Johnston and fullback Alan Kennedy combined on the left and the latter's cross was met by Dalglish who grabbed his 17th goal of the season with a sweet shot past Gary Bailey.

Watford, hammered 4-1 by Villa in the Football Association (F.A.) Cup last week, took their revenge thanks to an 89th minute winner from Wilf Roston.

Earlier, Luther Blissett, christened "miss-it" after his poor showing for England against Wales in midweek, had shot Watford ahead before Mark Walters equalised for Villa.

Nottingham Forest, the 1979 and 1980 European Cup winners, remained fourth despite being

held to a 1-1 draw away from home against lowly Birmingham.

Mick Harford gave the home side an early lead but Forest, 18 points adrift of Liverpool, hit back after the interval when substitute Peter Daveport, who had replaced the injured Garry Birtles at half-time, scored a glorious equaliser.

Arsenal goalkeeper Pat Jennings, one of the most popular players in the land, was given a guard of honour when he ran out to face West Bromwich at the Hawthorns.

Jennings, 37, a master of his craft, went on to celebrate his 1,000th first class game by keeping a clean-sheet in an otherwise undistinguished 0-0 draw.

Second division leaders Wolverhampton clung on to top spot on goal difference after a shattering 5-0 defeat at Leicester.

But they stayed ahead of Queens Park Rangers who failed to take full advantage by being held to a goalless draw at Shrewsbury.

Denmark's former European Footballer of the Year Allan Simonsen endured a nightmare afternoon. Charlton were crushed 7-1 at Burnley and finished the game with nine men after captain Derek Hales and fullback Mike Aizlewood were sent off.

Noah defeats Van't Hof

LA QUINTA, California (R)

— Second-seeded Yannick Noah of France beat Robert Van't Hof of the United States 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 Friday to reach to semi-finals of a \$255,000 tennis tournament here.

Noah, the tournament's defending champion,aced Van't Hof 14 times in the match. He broke his opponent's serve in the final game of the deciding set to record the victory. Van't Hof double-faulting on the match's final point.

In the semi-finals, Noah, 22, will face fourth-seeded Eliot Tel-

tscher who beat Victor Amaya 6-1, 6-1.

Unseeded Mike Bauer continued his string of upsets by defeating 16th-seeded Brad Gilbert 7-6, 6-3. Bauer, 23, who ousted top-seeded Jimmy Connors in the second round, will face third-seeded Jose Higuera of Spain in the semi-finals. Higuera swept past sixth-seeded Sandy Mayer 6-0, 6-4.

The winner of Sunday's final will earn \$32,000 and the runner-up \$16,000.

Second seed Vilas reaches semi-finals of WCT tourney

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R)

— Second-seeded Guillermo Vilas of Argentina, the last remaining seed, reached the semi-finals of a \$300,000 tennis tournament Friday night with an easy 6-0, 6-1 victory over Cassio Motta of Brazil.

He will meet Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia, who beat seventh-seeded Johan Kriek 6-2, 6-3 earlier.

The other semifinal will be between veteran Eddie Dibbs and Pavel Slozil of Czechoslovakia. The winner of Sunday's final will receive \$100,000.

Vilas, 30, ranked third in the world and winner of seven tournaments last year, took only 58 minutes to beat Motta.

Vilas, third in the world and winner of seven tournaments last

year, completely outclassed Motta in winning the first ten games. Motta's groundstrokes from the baseline could not match Vilas' heavy topspin and deep groundstrokes.

Vilas won 13 successive points from 0-15 in third game to 15-0 in the sixth game of the first set and Motta did not have a game point until the sixth game.

Smid, who is at his best on clay, played steadily in his match against Kriek who prefers a fast surface and was erratic.

From 2-2 in the opening set, Smid, who beat top-seeded Ivan Lendl in the first round, won six successive games. He took the match by breaking Kriek's serve to 15 in the ninth game of the second set.

Alan Jones may come out of retirement to join Arrows

LONDON (R) — Jackie Oliver,

chief of the Arrows Grand Prix motor racing team, Saturday confirmed reports that former world champion Alan Jones will come out of retirement to race for his team if financing can be arranged.

Oliver, who is seeking sponsorship for Arrows, told Reuters: "We need money to run the car in the manner to which Jones is accustomed."

The Arrows chief said he had a month or more to raise the funds because Jones, the 1980 world champion who retired from Formula One racing in 1981, was still on crutches after a horse-riding accident at his Australian home last month.

But Oliver added: "We don't want the season to get too old before he joins us."

Oliver said Jones hoped to be off crutches and back in the driver's seat by the Long Beach race in late March.

He added he thought Jones would not be in racing form before the French Grand Prix on April 17 but added: "Jones is a tough Aussie."

and one cannot underestimate him."

In Melbourne Saturday Jones confirmed he had been in touch with Arrows but refused to comment further, saying "it's been my experience with Australia that anything I say will be misconstrued."

Jones, 36, told Reuters he expected to be off crutches by the end of the week, and walking freely by the end of March.

Oliver said of Jones's tentative plans to join Arrows: "It would be terrific for us. We are a medium-sized team. We didn't have a particularly good year last year."

"Jones would bring us more attention and trade support," he added.

The Arrows chief declined to specify how much financing the team was seeking.

"The amounts of money needed in Formula 1 racing tend to frighten people," he said.

The 1980 world champion has frequently been the subject of press speculation about a possible comeback. Both Jones and Oliver were members of the now-defunct shadow team when Jones won his first Grand Prix in 1977.

3 world records set at U.S. indoor athletics meet

NEW YORK (R) — Three world

indoor records were set Friday night at the U.S. indoor track and field championships at the Madison Square Garden track.

Stephanie Hightower set a new mark in the 60-yard women's hurdles of 7.36 seconds, leading from the gun and winning by about three yards going away.

She and Candy Young jointly held the old record of 7:37, set last year.

Ray Sharp set a world record in the two-mile walk of 12 minutes 13.33 seconds. The old record of 12:20.06 was held by Jim Heiring, second Friday night in 12:15.36.

And a new mark was set in the 1,180-yard medley relay, an event run primarily in the United States, which consists of four legs of 440, 220, 220 and 300 yards.

The relay was won by the Tiger International team of Houston, Texas, in 2:00.25. The previous

record was 2:01.1.

In the mile, Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan put in a final kick with about 50 yards to go to catch Steve Scott of the United States and win his second consecutive U.S. national title in a time of 3:58.5.

Scott was second in 3:58.99 and Ray Flynn, also of Ireland, was third at 4:00.58.

Coghlan, never accused of being too modest, said afterwards: "I beat Scott last week in a fast race and this week I beat him in a slow race. Scott is going to have to get to a computer to figure out how to beat Eamonn Coghlan."

Billy Olson, the world record holder in the indoor pole vault at 19 feet one-quarter inch, tried unsuccessfully three times to set a new world mark of 19 and 3/4 inches, but was foiled on his best effort when his dangling foot hit the bar.

He was forced to share the meet's best leap with Dan Ripley at 18-8 and 3/4 inches (5.71 metres). Olson won as he made the vault in fewer attempts.

Carl Lewis, who holds the world indoor records in the men's long jump and the 60-yard dash, was the star of the competition, winning both events.

He won the 60-yard dash in 6:04 seconds compared with his world record of 6:02 and took the long jump with a leap of 27 feet and 3/4 inches (8.35 metres).

Darlene Beckford won the women's mile in 4 minutes 33.29 seconds. Cindy Brenner was second and Monica Joyce of Ireland was third.

The world record is held by Mary Decker Tabb at 4:20.5. She did not compete Friday night because of a stress fracture she suffered a few weeks ago.

Vilas' future in Argentina's Davis Cup team in-doubt

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R)

— Guillermo Vilas' future in Argentina's Davis Cup tennis team remains doubtful and clouded in controversy as time runs out before next week's clash with champions the United States.

Vilas has said he will not represent his country in the championship division first round tie starting in Buenos Aires next Friday unless he is officially notified by the Argentina Tennis Federation that he is in the team.

"Vilas, for a long time the mainstay of the team and who is playing in a World Championship Tennis (WCT) event here, said: 'I just can't go and say, 'hey, I'm here.'"

Vilas, ranked third in the world,

said he had called the United States Tennis Association office in New York earlier in the week and learned he had been named in the team. But he said he has had no contact with his own federation.

Jose Luis Clerc said he received a letter from the Argentina Tennis Federation almost two months ago informing him that he had been named in the squad.

When the United States last travelled to Buenos Aires for a Davis Cup match, in 1980, Argentina won 4-1, while in the 1981 final in Cincinnati, Clerc and Vilas pushed the U.S. to the limit before losing.

Meanwhile, the open rift between Vilas and Clerc apparently continues.

Vilas, asked at the Grand Prix Masters early last month about his relationship with Clerc, said: "We have no differences because we have nothing in common."

Clerc, asked a similar question this week, replied: "I don't know anything about Vilas. And I don't care."

Clerc did not play for Argentina in their Davis Cup first round defeat by France last year.

Vilas said of his confused status Saturday: "It is not very fair at this stage of my career. It is very unrespectable for my person. If you see one reason tell me."

Bunge outclasses Kohde at Oakland

OAKLAND, California (R) —

Sixth-seeded Bettina Bunge of Monte Carlo outlasted Claudia Kohde of West Germany in a tough three sets Friday, to move into the semi-finals of a \$150,000 California women's tennis tournament.

Fourth seeded Wendy Turnbull of Australia also made it to the semi-finals, overcoming unseeded Anne Smith 6-4, 6-2, in a match in which neither seemed to want to hold serve.

Bunge outclassed Kohde 6-4, 3-6, 6-1. Twice Bunge was up

love-40 on Kohde's serve in the second set but let her opportunities slip away with Kohde winning both games.

But in the final set she regained the touch she had in the first set—especially on forehand cross courts—and outgunned her taller opponent with little trouble. She held her service without losing a point in the final game.

Kohde, who was Bunge's West Germany Federation Cup teammate last summer, had previously lost three sets—to upset third seeded Hana Mandlikova of

Czechoslovakia in the first round and then Catherine Tanvier of France in the second round Thursday.

The Turnbull-Smith contest saw no fewer than seven service breaks in the first set and four in the second, with Turnbull chalking up four of the breaks in the first set and three in the second.

Turnbull scored breaks in the final games of both sets, breaking for 6-4 in the first set after 42 minutes and for 6-2 in the second after 22 minutes.

N. Zealand inflicts 3rd one-day defeat on England cricketers

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (R) — England captain Bob Willis Saturday signed off his team's Australasian cricket tour with a fitting epitaph: "We should have won."

Willis was speaking after England's 84-run defeat in the third and final one-day match against New Zealand which gave the home side a clean sweep of the limited-over series.

As they packed for the flight home, the England players must have reflected bitterly on a four-month tour which saw them surrender the Ashes to Australia, finish last in a three-horse race for the World Series Cup and now go down 3-0 in the one-day series against New Zealand.

To prevent a further disaster, they may hope a sandstorm obliterates the charity game they are due to play in Dubai on the way home.

England's defeat Saturday was fairly typical of earlier disasters. Having restricted New Zealand to 211 for eight from 50 overs, they reached 94 for two in reply before being all out for 127.

Particularly in the one-day games in the latter half of the tour, England have made a fine art of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

Once again Glenn Turner was New Zealand's top scorer, making 34 in an opening stand of 64 with Bruce Edgar who contributed 32.

New Zealand lost their eighth wicket in the 42nd over at 156 before John Morrison and Martin Snedden, the Man of the Match, added 55 in an unbroken ninth-wicket stand.

England's openers Chris Tavare and Ian Gould went for only eight but then David Gower, the side's one consistently successful player during the tour, and Allan Lamb took the score to 94 for two in the 26th over.

But when they were out, Gower for 53 and Lamb for 37, the rest of the batsmen performed so miserably that one could surpass the tally of eight extras.

Willis has become adept at stoically reflecting on defeat. "We should have won. But we didn't bat with any great skill so I'm afraid we lost," he said. "Sometimes we're up and sometimes we're down."

In fact England were "up" on only one occasion when they beat Australia by three runs in the fourth test in Melbourne to trail 2-1 in the series. The fifth test in Sydney

was drawn.

A number of factors contributed to England's poor showings.

The original selection, which always looked somewhat ill conceived, proved to be just that. The wisdom of taking three off spinners was quickly laid bare and the decision to leave behind Trevor Jesty and Mike Gatting, after they had performed mightily during the English season, was misguided.

Jesty was eventually summoned when Graeme Fowler was injured and quickly established himself ahead of Derek Pringle, the Essex all-rounder who many felt should never have been chosen in the first place.

Willis's captaincy was also a disappointment. He was the first fast bowler to lead England for more than 30 years and the twin responsibilities proved an uneasy burden.

The cares of captaincy diminished his bowling and the concentration of bowling distracted him from handling the team as well as he might have done.

But to his credit Willis retained his dignity throughout the disappointing tour.

Gerulaitis, Gunthardt in Kuwait final

KUWAIT (R) — Top seed Vitas

Gerulaitis of the U.S. and Heinz Gunthardt of Switzerland qualified for the singles finals of an Association of Tennis Professionals tournament here Friday night.

Gerulaitis fought hard to beat 19-year-old Magnus Tideman of Sweden 6-1, 4-6, 7-5 and Gunthardt defeated unseeded Czechoslovak Stanislav Brzic 6-7, 6-3, 6-0.

The \$75,000 tournament ends Saturday.

Japan's Seko: Most intriguing runner

TOKYO (R) — Marathon running

has thrown up some interesting champions over the years but none more intriguing than Japan's Toshihiko Seko who made a brilliant comeback last week to win the Tokyo marathon in two hours eight minutes and 38 seconds.

Japan has a proud tradition of marathon running although a Japanese native has yet to win an Olympic title. Kitei Son won the event at the 1936 Berlin Olympics running for Japan but he was a

Korean, a country at that stage annexed by Japan.

In Seko though Japan have found a runner who must have every chance of winning Olympic gold in Los Angeles next year.

Seko's run last Sunday, his first race for 22 months after a slump in form and worrying leg injuries, establishes him in the world's top three with Cuban-born American Alberto Salazar and Australia's Robert de Castella.

His time becomes even more remarkable when it is taken into account that from October 1981 to May last year he was not even able to run because of severe leg pains.

"But Seko kept walking every day, even under rain when he was unable to run to keep fit," a fellow employee said admiringly.

Seko's awesome dedication and monastic lifestyle—he has been quoted as saying "running is my

only girlfriend"—is in sharp contrast to his youthful attitude to running.

Seko, 30, was an outstanding schoolboy runner but was so undisciplined that when his parents sent him to California for six months specialised training he returned 10 kg heavier.

But after he entered Tokyo's Waseda University in 1976 his life was taken over by Japan's outstanding athletics coach Kiyoshi Nakamura.

Nakamura, called Master by his runners, set Seko a tortuous schedule of 35 to 40 km a day with the occasional 80 km run lasting six hours.

The benefits were immediate. Seko won the Fukuoka marathon in 1978 in the world-class time of 2:10.21, then three years' later leaped into world prominence when he beat American Bill Rodgers to win the Boston marathon

in 2:09.26.

In addition under Nakamura's guidance Seko prepared just as carefully mentally for each race, with periods of meditation in a Buddhist temple.

But the strain of an exhausting training programme and a series of demanding races took their toll, culminating in Seko's absence from the marathon scene for almost two years.

Nakamura has admitted that 22 races, including two marathons, between April 27, 1980 and July 9, 1981 had been too much.

"Training is like medicine, it is not good to take too much medicine," Nakamura said.

Nakamura said Seko would run in four or five track meetings between May and early September and would then concentrate on the Fukuoka marathon, a qualifying meeting for Japan's marathon runners to next year's Olympics.

He added that Seko would limit his marathon racing to two a year.

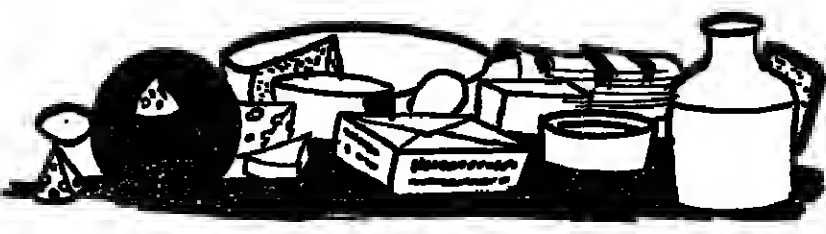
Nakamura said he doubted if Seko would clash with Salazar or de Castella in a marathon this year but said he could run against Salazar in the Bislet Games in Oslo in June and a meeting in Stockholm in July.

THE DAIRY WEEK

From 2nd March - 6th March
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Ministry of Education, Projects Directorate announces invitation to bids for the following packages which are parts of the 3rd Educational Project:-

	Bid No
1) Sports equipments	30
2) Machines for business education	31
3) Language laboratory	32
4) Musical instruments	33
5) Vocational audio visual aids	34
6) Workshops furniture	35
7) Office machine equipment	36
8) Equipment & materials for weaving	37

Companies and agents of manufacturers are invited to collect copies of these tenders from the Projects Directorate situated in Abdali, behind Public Security Headquarters Building, against payment of JD 5 for each tender, starting Feb. 26, 1983 closing date will be at 10 A.M., April 17, 1983.

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ECONOMY

Major U.S. banks cut interest rates

WASHINGTON (R) — Several major U.S. banks cut their interest rates Friday amid continuing enthusiasm on Wall Street that the longest recession since World War II is over.

The government also reported fresh success in the fight against inflation. The Labour Department said consumer prices edged up only two-tenths of a per cent last month.

The modest rise was hailed by the White House as proof that unwary price increases "are safely behind us," in the words of President Reagan's senior economic adviser, Mr. Martin Feldstein. At a White House briefing for reporters, Mr. Feldstein praised several leading banks for lowering their prime lending rates, charged their best corporate customers, to 10 1/2 per cent. Two major banks, Citibank and Chemical Bank, were among those lowering the rate from 11 per cent.

The spate of good economic news combined with the recent fall in oil prices to send prices on the New York stock exchange to further record highs Friday.

Wall Street analysts attributed the strong performance to confidence in the health of the economy and sentiment that declining oil prices will speed recovery from recession.

The cut in bank prime rates, which usually foreshadows lower consumer loan rates, came after Mr. Reagan this week said banks should stand to bring interest rates down "a notch or two."

Treasury Secretary Donald Regan also asserted this week that banks were deliberately prying up their rates to protect their earnings at a time when many borrowers are having trouble repaying their loans.

Administration officials said they are still concerned that high interest rates could slow the pace of any recovery.

But they were cheered by the modest advance of the consumer price index last month. Labour Department economists said that if rates continued at the same pace for the next 12 months, this year's inflation rate would be only 2.1 per cent compared with 3.9 per cent this year.

Romania, banks agree to reschedule \$600m debt

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania has reached agreement with Western banks on rescheduling \$600 million of debt falling due this year. The agreement, which was reached after a fall in projected principal and interest payments from next year, Mr. Marin said Friday.

Mr. Marin told Reuters in an interview: "a rescheduling in 1984 could not be justified."

"1983 is the last year of difficulties. If we can get through it... the Romanian economy can develop without any balance of payments difficulties," he said.

He said the nine banks coordinating talks on the rescheduling, which deals with principal only, have promised to sign an agreement May 15 calling for 30 per cent of the money to be paid this year, 10 per cent in 1984 and the remaining 60 per cent in 6 1/2 years with three per cent grace.

Romania, which with Poland has been the main casualty of a cut in loans by Western banks to the Eastern bloc, would not need to reschedule its 1984 debt because of a fall in projected principal and interest payments from next year, Mr. Marin added.

Finance ministry figures show a fall in payments from \$3.43 billion in 1983 to \$1.77 billion in 1984.

Mr. Marin added that Romania is seeking to reschedule \$150 million of debt owed to Western governments in 1983.

He said he expected that in late March or April Romania will meet Western governments in the so-called Paris Club of Western governments that discuss payments problems of creditors.

Romania, which has pledged to maintain 1983 interest payments, had an agreement in London last December to stretch out payments on \$2.5 billion of 1981 and 1982 debt owed to banks.

Romania owes Western creditors, including governments and international corporations such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, just over \$10 billion and is due to repay some \$1 billion in 1983.

Western diplomats attribute Romania's payment problems to poor management coupled with a reliance on short term debt and to a management which was withdrawn by banks anxious to reduce their Eastern exposure in the wake of the Polish crisis.

Brazil, banks sign \$8b credit accords

NEW YORK (R) — Credit agreements for over \$8 billion were signed here Friday as an international plan to save Brazil from debt disaster set a financial "milestone", Brazil's Finance Minister Ernesto Galveas said.

International bankers stood in line at New York's elegant Plaza Hotel to sign thick documents giving Brazil the \$4.4 billion loan and the \$4 billion debt refinancing agreement that are key elements in its rescue programme.

On Monday, approval of a \$5.5 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected to cap the plan.

Mr. Galveas, signing with Central Bank Governor Carlos Langoni, told bankers at the ceremony the agreements were "a milestone in the financial history of the world."

Private banks, central banks and governments had banded together to rebuild confidence in financial markets, he said.

Brazil requested the loan and the refinancing two months ago after suffering a severe drain on its international reserves caused by a loss of confidence in money markets after Mexico suffered a liquidity crisis last August.

Brazil, which owes about \$81 billion abroad, has also obtained a \$1.2 billion bridging credit from central banks plus \$1.5 billion in U.S. government emergency credit.

Mr. Langoni told Reuters that Brazil has sought and expects to receive an additional \$400 million of short-term credit from the U.S. government to tide it over for about two weeks until it receives new money under the loan signed Friday. But in Washington, a U.S. treasury spokesman denied the department has any plans to lend additional money to Brazil.

Some 160 of Brazil's major creditor banks were due to sign the new eight-year loan, with interest rates of 2 1/2 percentage points over the key London Interbank Offered Rates or 1 1/2 point above U.S. banks' prime rate.

Representatives of 675 banks were due to sign the agreement extending debt falling due in 1983 on the same terms.

The third part of Brazil's four-part financing programme, covering renewal of some \$9 billion of short-term trade credit lines, is already complete, bankers noted.

The fourth part, the restoration of money market credit lines to foreign branches of Brazilian banks, is incomplete, but banking sources said progress was still being made on it.

Friday's signing follows Thursday's news that a \$5 billion six-year bank loan for Mexico is complete. Mexico, with \$83 billion of foreign debt, already has an IMF loan.

Argentina clarifies total external debt

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's economy ministry said Friday night the country's external debt was \$38.736 billion on Dec. 31, 1982, of which 49 per cent fell due for repayment this year.

The figures were contained in a statement issued by the ministry to clarify conflicting official estimates issued over the past two months.

According to the statement, total foreign debt was calculated at \$22,005 billion for the public sector, \$13,971 billion for the private sector and arrears of \$2,760 billion.

Of the total, \$18,917 billion was due to be repaid in 1983, \$3,966 billion in 1984 and \$3,184 billion in 1985, it added.

These calculations do not take into account Argentina's current efforts to renegotiate \$5.5 billion of public sector debt falling due this year, together with some \$7 billion of short term private debt.

Argentina's foreign debt was officially estimated at \$36.6 billion on June 30 last year, but Economy Minister Jorge Webbe created confusion in December when he revised the estimate to \$43 billion.

Last week Mr. Webbe said he had made a mistake, counting twice some \$5.5 billion of private sector loans with exchange insurance. He gave a new rough estimate of \$37 billion, in line with a figure given to bankers in New York recently by Central Bank President Julio Gonzalez Del Solar.

The latest official debt figure of \$38.7 billion or \$36 billion excluding arrears is different again.

According to Thursday night's statement, the \$18.9 billion in debt falling due in 1983 is split evenly between the public and private sectors.

In order to help Argentina overcome its foreign debt crisis, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) gave the country \$2.2 billion of credit last month, including a stand by loan.

Argentina's private creditor banks gave the country a \$1.1 billion standby loan on Dec. 31 and are presently negotiating a further medium term credit of \$1.5 billion.

The Bank for International Settlements, a club of the world's main central banks, has also given Argentina a \$500 million short term loan to help it overcome its debt crisis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bonn opposes union demands

BONN (R) — The West German government said Friday it opposed union demands to be consulted in the early stages of any restructuring of the country's ailing steel industry. An economics ministry spokesman said Bonn wanted West German steel companies to take the crucial first steps towards streamlining the industry themselves, without interference from the powerful metalworkers union. He was responding to metalworkers leader Mr. Eugen Loderer, who Thursday demanded a say in any changes and called for the creation of a broad-based committee to reshape the steel sector.

Turkey seeks \$200m loan

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is seeking a medium-term syndicated loan of around \$200 million to help smooth balance of payments financing and the servicing of foreign debts, government sources said Friday. They said negotiations with banks including Morgan Guaranty were still at an early stage but that the attitude of U.S. banks was encouraging. Banks in Europe and the Gulf had also been approached.

Spain's unemployed totals 2.23m

MADRID (R) — A total of 2.23 million Spaniards were out of work at the end of 1982, an unemployment rate of 17.06 per cent, according to latest quarterly figures of the national statistics institute. The institute's data are higher than the figures issued by the labour ministry which include only registered unemployed. The ministry put the number of unemployed in December at 2.15 million or 16.53 per cent of the workforce.

Arab business group gets award

NEW YORK (AAACI) — The American-Arab Association for Commerce & Industry, Inc. (AAACI) earlier this month received the U.S. president's "E Star" award from U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige. The award was made at a luncheon in New York at which Secretary Baldrige (talked about his recent trip to Algeria and Saudi Arabia). The award was received by the association's Executive Director, I.F. Yusuf, on behalf of the members of this business cooperative. The affair was attended by upward of 200 Arab ambassadors and diplomats, government officials, and U.S. and Arab businessmen. The American-Arab Association is a 32-year old private group dedicated to the promotion of U.S.-Arab business. It is the second time that the association received this award for excellence.

Itokin to buy 50% of French firm

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese women's clothes maker is to buy a 50 per cent share of the leading French fashion house, Andre Courreges. A spokesman for the Japanese firm Itokin said Friday it was making the purchase by buying the French pharmaceutical firm Oreol which owns half of Andre Courreges. The Courreges family owns the other half. The spokesman, who declined to say how much the deal was worth, said Itokin hoped to improve sales of Andre Courreges products, which are made under licence in Japan by more than 20 companies. The French fashion house has annual sales of around \$1.3 million.

U.S. blocks Boeing-Libyan deal

NEW YORK (Special) — Boeing Co. said that the Commerce Department blocked a proposed \$600 million sale of 12 commercial jets to Libyan Arab Airlines. The Seattle-based corporation, in a statement issued by its office here, said the department refused to approve the required licence. The department wouldn't comment on the matter.

IMF to lend \$549 m to Philippines

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced Friday it would lend up to \$549 million to the Philippines to help the country weather the current global recession.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEB. 27, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An especially good day and evening to extend your knowledge beyond present boundaries. You may be eager to make changes now but this is not the right time.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contacting progressive and clever individuals can result in your own advancement at this time. Strive for happiness.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Follow your intuitive hunches now since they can be helpful in your dealings with others. Flash that winning smile more.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Contacting influential persons today can be the best means through which you can advance in career matters.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Your intuitive perception is keen now, so put it to good use and gain your objectives. Plan this coming week's activity.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Study contracts you have made and if any revisions are necessary, get at them early. An expert can give excellent advice.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study new ways to cut down on expenses. Listen carefully to what a family member has to say and follow the advice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Engage in recreational activities with congenials. Carry through with ideas of a creative nature in your spare time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study your surroundings and make improvements where needed. Make plans to have more abundance in the days ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A good day to visit places where you can gain a better appreciation of life. Think kindly of others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan how to make your possessions more valuable. Ideal day for meditating and searching for the truth.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Visit good friends and show that you value the relationship. A day when you can easily make a good impression on others.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Engage in confidential work that could make the future loom brighter for you. Express happiness with close ties.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be interested in the latest trends and inventions. Be sure to give the right spiritual and ethical training to keep this mind working along constructive channels. Give the finest education you can afford.

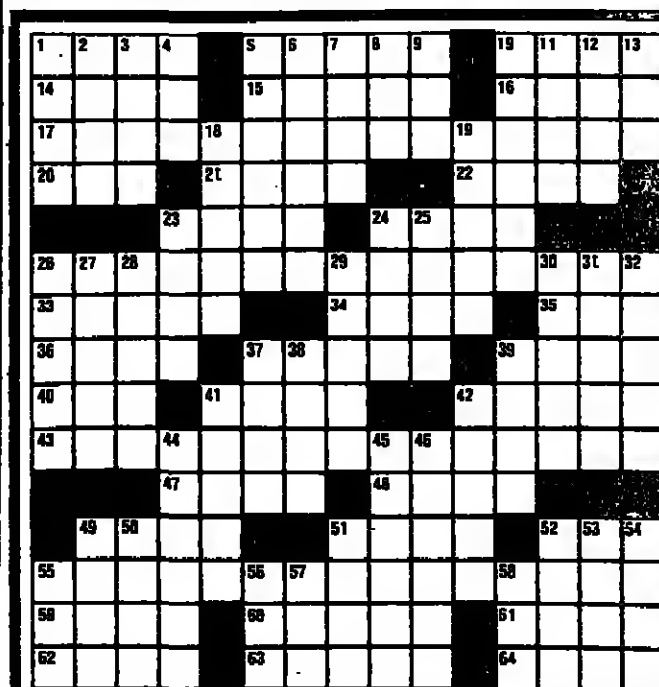
"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS	24 Rake	51 Scrape off	24 Tatters
1 Endure	26 Haig's do-	52 Taven	25 European
5 Pocket	main, once	55 S D	airport
change	33 Was con-	59 Sharpen	26 Wound
in Paris	cerned	60 Mallet	marks
10 Mop	34 Eye coquet-	61 Eagerness	27 Implied
14 "Against	tishly	62 For action	28 Millieu for
— of	35 The present	62 One who	contendants
troubles"	36 High cards	63 Inspects	29 Sharpened
15 Mississippi	37 Boisterous	63 Foretakers	and
sight	38 Poker staka	64 Arthur of	30 Acute
16 Ivy League	40 Place for	tennis	boredom
school	grain		31 Untrue
17 Learning	41 College		32 Poet's
center	VIP	1 Ply the	preposition
20 Darby,	42 Timid one	whip	37 Gas
for one	43 Important	2 One-time	38 Louts
21 Summers: Fr.	address	movie dog	39 Excalant
22 Premiering	47 Roadside	3 Chair	41 Thick,
23 Hasn't got	hostilities	4 Moka lace	as a fog
— to stand	48 Facility	5 Decorated	42 Cilo and
on	49 Guns	"groovily"	Erato
		8 Break one's	44 Standing
		agreement	trees
		Rara	45 Paradise
		7 Western	46 Painters'
		stata: abbr.	necessities
		9 Poor grade	49 Nautical
		10 Orderly	call
		routine	50 Descartes
		11 Be in expec-	51 Split
		tation	52 Buddies
		12 Member of	53 Where
		the choir	Prova la
		13 Ruler of	54 Nota —
		Tunis	56 Article
		18 Snuggled	55 Self
		19 Prescribed	57 Certain
		itinerary	actor
		23 Sweetstop	58 Souchong

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ALLIE PETAL AHAIR
TIDYD ALONE PURE
TUNING DISCERNED
STANDERS TUKAIS
ODOR SITTE
DELTAS ALAR EGO
ERIE ANANIA QUIA
BRADDOCKWISQUIT
POW HALLS VITDII
ARA TISEL GREPES
BITTS ODDR
SEIDER DISASTER
MARCIANDIVSHODRE
ESTAU PAIRSE FLONIA
WEITS CREST DRED



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THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four Jumbles, a letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

DARUG

BYBEA

PIMNED

ALJEG

SOMETIMES HANGING AROUND A FAUCET.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

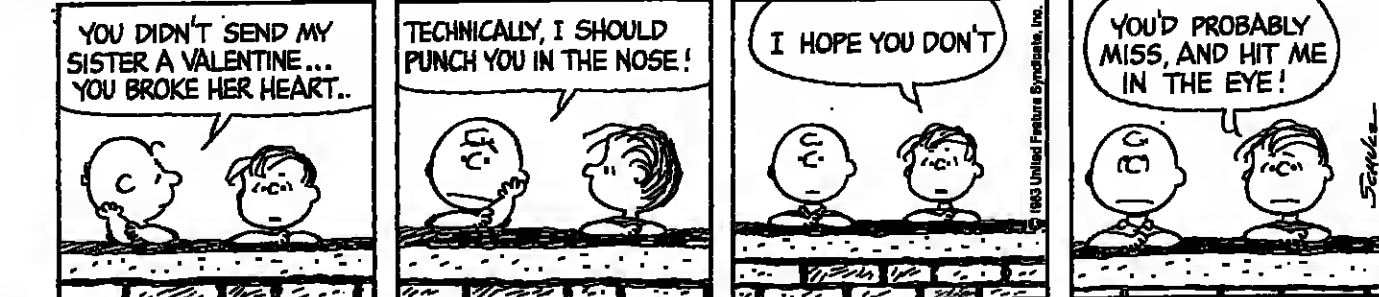
Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: ROBOT, MOUND, AIRWAY, TAWDRY

Answer: Today's greatest labor-saving device — "TOMORROW"

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



WORLD

Tennessee Williams dies at 71

NEW YORK (R) — Tennessee Williams, the playwright whose sultry dramas reflected the vulnerability and pathos of his own troubled life, died in his New York apartment Friday. He was 71.

Williams was acclaimed as one of the 20th century's major dramatists for his powerful plays including "A Streetcar Named Desire", "The Glass Menagerie" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof".

He was found dead beside the bed in his suite in a hotel on Manhattan's East Side, apparently of natural causes. The New York medical examiner said there was no sign of foul play and the cause of death would be announced after an autopsy.

Police said an empty wine bottle and two pills were found near the

body. They did not say what type of pills they were.

Williams was in poor health most of his life, suffered from alcoholism and had a series of nervous breakdowns from the age of 23.

But he was remembered by friends as a sweet, kindly man who detested human cruelty and saw fame and success as threats to an artist's creativity.

Williams was born in 1911 in Columbus, Mississippi, and his most famous plays bore the unmistakable aura of the deep South.

His real name was Thomas Lanier Williams, but perhaps echoing his father's criticism of him as a delicate "Miss Nancy," he said the name was too nice. Instead he took the name Tennessee from his

father's forebears who were Indian fighters and pioneers in the state of Tennessee.

Williams used his pre-occupation with death to create stories of violence and lust, like the Pulitzer prize-winning "A Streetcar Named Desire" in which the disintegrating southern belle, Blanche DuBois, is confronted by her forceful, earthy brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski.

Like the fragile Blanche, who said, "I always depend on the kindness of strangers," Williams seemed too vulnerable for the vagaries of life and suffered a complete breakdown in 1969, after which he converted to Roman Catholicism.

He became a celebrity with his second play, "Glass Menagerie"

in 1944, but then returned to New Orleans, which he always considered his home, and found the inspiration for "Streetcar".

Williams once said the premise underlying all his work was "the need for understanding and tenderness and fortitude among individuals trapped by circumstance."

Marlon Brando, who played Stanley to Vivien Leigh's Blanche in the film version of "Streetcar", said: "His was a wounded life."

Playwright Arthur Miller said: "He came into the theatre bringing his poetry, his hardened edge of romantic adoration of the lost and the beautiful. For a while the theatre loved him and then it went back to searching in its pockets for its soul."

Hanoi asks everybody to have faith

HANOI (R) — Diplomats and journalists who question Vietnamese officials for details of troop withdrawals from Kampuchea are told to have faith in Hanoi's announcements.

"When we say something we do it," Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach told foreign journalists here after an announcement that Vietnam would withdraw some of its estimated 180,000 troops from Kampuchea every year if security conditions allowed.

The announcement, following a summit of Vietnamese, Laotian and Kampuchean leaders in Vietnam this week, came after Vietnam had told diplomats here that the meeting was designed solely to discuss cooperation between the three Indochinese countries.

"If they suddenly decide to announce a regular withdrawal from Kampuchea the offer must have significance," said one Western diplomat.

But Vietnam's non-Communist neighbours and China are openly sceptical and accuse Hanoi of merely rotating its troops in Kampuchea, where Vietnamese-led forces toppled the pro-Peking Khmer Rouge government in January 1979.

A first withdrawal of an undisclosed number of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea was announced by Mr. Thach last July after a meeting of Indochinese foreign ministers in Ho Chi Minh City.

At the time, Mr. Thach cited military security as the reason for not providing details of the pullout and gave similar grounds this week for not disclosing the extent of the latest withdrawal announcement.

Reports circulating among Western diplomats say about 10,000 to 12,000 Vietnamese troops left Kampuchea last year and were replaced by an unknown number of fresh soldiers.

"The withdrawal announcement last year was patently bogus," an Asian envoy in Hanoi said.

Thailand's foreign minister, Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetasil, whose country faces the Vietnamese army on the border with Kampuchea, said last week he believed Vietnam "wants to make some noise because of the coming Non-Aligned meeting in New Delhi."

Hanoi's forces have been concentrated near the Thai border region, where the estimated 40,000 to 60,000 anti-Vietnamese insurgents are based, while Kampuchean army units have taken over security further inland.

Saunders says U.S., Israel need in-depth dialogue on Mideast

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Harold Saunders, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, from 1978 to 1981, as well as a resident fellow and Middle East specialist at the American Enterprise Institute, has recommended that the United States should open a "prolonged and serious dialogue" with Israel on the fundamental issues involved in finding a Middle East peace.

Addressing a Feb. 23 luncheon sponsored by the institute, Mr. Saunders said there has not been a dialogue between the United States and Israel on the fundamental questions involving occupied territories in three years.

"If there is to be a dialogue between the United States and Israel... it has to go to this fundamental question: Where are we going together?" Mr. Saunders said. "We are no longer operating on common premises. We thought we were operating on the premise of a negotiated peace, but since Camp David, most of the primary issues on the Palestinian side of the problem have been dealt with by Israel unilaterally outside of negotiations."

"We thought we were operating under the basis of (United Nations Security Council) Resolution 242, which Camp David reaffirmed, namely Israeli withdrawal in return for peace," Mr. Saunders said. "That is not the policy of the present (Israeli) government. We are not operating on the same premises, and when two friends are no longer operating on common premises and their paths are diverging I think you have to have a discussion of where we are going together."

Mr. Saunders, told the gathering that for 35 years the United States has committed itself to the security of Israel.

However, he said this commitment is "to the security of an Israel founded on a just compromise with its neighbours."

"We have never thought through what the American commitment is to an Israel founded on a winner-take-all solution in Palestine, which thereby commits itself to another generation of conflict and thereby may put itself in a position to undercut American interests in the Middle East."

Mr. Saunders also pointed out that the United States appeared to be committed to the security of

Jordan, asking what problems might be posed for the United States "if the Hashemite Kingdom is somehow threatened with transformation into becoming the Republic of Palestine."

Mr. Saunders said fundamental decisions must be made by all of the parties involved, including the Palestinians.

Emphasising that he supported President Reagan's Sept. 1 peace initiative at the time it was made, Mr. Saunders said the initiative had run into trouble because "the present Israeli government feels that the balance of advantage is on its side and it will get what it wants by not negotiating and simply continuing to create changes on the ground so that there will be very little to negotiate."

He pointed out that Jordan recognised Israel's advantage and that both Jordanians and Palestinians "do not believe it is possible for Jordan or the Palestinians to put enough weight into the scale to get out of the negotiations a fair settlement."

"They look to the United States to see whether it is possible for the United States to move into the negotiating process in a way that puts the weight of the United States into the scale on the side of a negotiated settlement rather than as they have feared on the side of an imposed settlement," Mr. Saunders said.

He said that both Jordan and the Palestinians now see the United States as being on the side of an imposed settlement because they view the United States as either passively or openly backing Israel's policies.

Mr. Saunders, responding to a question as to whether President Reagan's initiative is already dead, responded that this initiative and Camp David are not the issues right now, in his view.

"The issue," he asserted, "is whether we are not at a historic fork in the road and if we are, that does not require much more than the Sept. 1 speech, whether that does not require a major American statement in act as well as in words as to whether the United States is in favour of a just compromise... or whether it is going to work around the edges."

"The issue is whether we view the problem with sufficient seriousness to move from the bases that have already been established to a negotiated peace."

Senegalese voters have wide choice in elections

DAKAR (R) — Senegalese voters will choose from an array of parties and candidates which is rare in black Africa at elections Sunday but President Abdou Diouf and the ruling Socialist Party (PS) seem most likely to be returned to power.

A complex new electoral code based on the West German and other Western models is designed to assure some representation for the many smaller parties but basically ensures that the Socialists retain power, political sources said.

The eight parties and five presidential candidates offer a variety unusual in black African politics.

The 1,300 candidates are competing for 120 parliamentary

seats, 20 more than in the last elections in 1978 when the Socialists won 82 seats and the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS) of lawyer Abdoulaye Wade won 18. Ten PDS deputies have since defected to the Socialists.

The campaign has lacked strong themes. The opposition has accused the Socialists of a poor performance. The Socialists have promised stability and efforts to boost the country's economy, hit in recent years by recession and bad weather.

The government has started a five-year recovery plan with World Bank help and is trying to develop tourism, phosphates and iron ore to diversify the country's narrow economic base.

Bomb, arson attacks continue in Assam

NEW DELHI (R) — A girl was killed in a bomb attack Saturday as violence continued in India's northeastern state of Assam where at least 1,500 people have died in three weeks of riots and communal clashes.

The girl died and five people were injured when a bomb was thrown into an office in the Central Darrang district. The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

Troops were reported to have stepped up patrols and to be assisting the civil authorities in several places, including the area around Nelli where tribesmen last weekend hacked to death about 1,000 immigrants.

The agency said there were further

clashes and arson attacks Saturday in the Central Brahmaputra River Valley.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party won a two-thirds majority in state elections in Assam earlier this month and its newly-elected leader there is expected to be sworn in as chief minister this weekend, ending a year of direct central government rule.

But there is already speculation that Mrs. Gandhi might have to re-impose direct rule from New Delhi to bring the situation under control.

Asked at a press conference here Friday about the possibility of re-imposing president's rule, Mrs. Gandhi said: "We will have to watch and see what happens."

Doe sends more troops to Sierra Leone border

MONROVIA (R) — Liberia moved more troops to its border with Sierra Leone as tension remained high between the two West African countries, a government statement said Saturday.

Reliable sources in Monrovia said the troops now totalled 3,500 compared with 2,000 on Tuesday.

The crisis was sparked by a newspaper report in Freetown, the Sierra Leone capital, alleging that Liberian leader of state Samuel Doe had killed his wife.

The rumours were effectively quashed Friday when Mrs. Nancy Doe drove through Monrovia in an open jeep with her husband at the wheel.

Sierra Leone President Siaka Stevens ordered the arrest of the

offending journalist, but Mr. Doe remained unsatisfied and Friday night ordered more troops to the border to reinforce the closure he ordered on Tuesday.

The Monrovia government's statement said President Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea was expected to arrive here later Saturday on a "conciliatory mission."

President Sekou Toure has urged President Doe to treat the matter with restraint and suggested a summit meeting between the leaders of the two neighbouring nations.

But informed sources in Monrovia said the border would remain closed until Mr. Doe was fully satisfied with Mr. Stevens' explanations.

Neumann says core issues of the Mideast problem are ignored

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Former U.S. ambassador Robert G. Neumann, who recently returned from a 10-day trip during which he spoke with Saudi Arabian, Jordanian, and Israeli leaders, said that the Middle East peace talks are at an impasse because the core issues of the Arab-Israeli problem are not being addressed.

Additionally, he said, the insistence of the Begin government to "no preconditions" before negotiations and its demand to West Bank territory it calls Eretz Israel, the land of Israel, have bound the peace process before it even begins.

"Our problem is not the negotiations; our problem is to get to the negotiations," said Mr. Neumann, at a seminar entitled "Where are we now in the Middle East process?" sponsored by the Georgetown University Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Mr. Neumann is a senior advisor to the faculty. He has served as U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Afghanistan.

His first assumption, about the Middle East, he said, is that "the core problem to be solved if peace and security are to be achieved in the Middle East, especially in the Arab-Israeli problem, the Palestinian problem, as well as the recognition and security of Israel."

Mr. Neumann further assumes that the Palestinian issue is a problem of historical nationalism, "a national consciousness that craves by its nature a land in which it can legitimately reside."

He believes that the recent talks between King Hussein and PLO leader Yasser Arafat have gone well, even though there has been no public announcement about the exact nature of the association, federation, or confederation that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation might eventually take.

Mr. Neumann's third assumption is that the essence of United States policy is to hold the first two assumptions, as well as adv-

ance the peace initiative announced by President Reagan on Sept. 1 last year. He sees the Reagan plan as being based upon the Camp David agreement — "as the U.S. and Egypt understand it, but not as Mr. Begin understands it."

As a result of his trip, Mr. Neumann assumes moderate Arab countries and those elements of the Palestine Liberation Organisation who accept, in one way or another, the Reagan formula of "territory for peace" would be willing to come forward to negotiate.

He singled out Jordan as being one of the moderate Arab nations that would come to the negotiating table if Israel would change its policy regarding the implementation of the peace talks.

King Hussein told Mr. Neumann in Amman that he supported President Reagan's peace initiative, and spoke warmly about the conversations he and President Reagan had in December in Washington. "He expressed no doubt in the sincerity and determination of the president" to advance a Mideast peace process, Mr. Neumann said.

Centre of conflict

However, the conflict about the negotiations centres around whether or not an American president can convince a Jordanian monarch if he has the "deliverability" to influence the Israeli government of Menachem Begin.

Mr. Neumann says that his fifth assumption was that the Begin government and Israel are resolutely opposed to the Reagan plan. He said that he found this not to be the case, and "that nearly half of the Israeli population endorses it in one form or another."

At the seminar, Mr. Neumann made reference to a public opinion poll reported in the Feb. 3 issue of the Jerusalem Post to support his argument. The newspaper asked Israelis whether they were for or against a peace agreement with Jordan that involved an Israeli commitment to leave the territories in the occupied West

Bank.

According to Neumann, the January statistics released by the Post reported that those favouring not giving up one inch of territory was 42.2, and those that would give up parts of the West Bank was 39.8.

After holding discussions with leaders in each of the three key Mideast countries involved in any type of peace negotiations that might occur, Mr. Neumann says that he now believes that if King Hussein would "make a clear announcement of his willingness to come" to the negotiating table it would "have a profound effect on the political balance in Israel."

Mr. Neumann envisages a negotiating environment where Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation might immediately come together to negotiate on the final disposition of the occupied West Bank, and not just talk about a preliminary transitional phase of negotiations as outlined as in first step in the Camp David agreement.

He also sees as the bases for the negotiations United Nations Resolution 242, which rejects the idea of seizing territory through war and emphasises the need to work for a "lasting peace in which every state in the area can live in security."

A Jordanian-Palestinian delegation might come forward more readily if a limited time frame for discussions could be part of the negotiations, a process whereby participants could move from one point to another without delay, noted Mr. Neumann.

Arab leaders with whom he spoke cited how the negotiations between Israel and Egypt, as called for by the Camp David agreement, have bogged down and have made them hesitant to enter negotiations.

"My impression is that King Hussein is not willing and cannot be willing to be bogged down by the Israelis in extended wrangling over the details of transitional autonomy, one seat or two seats of this council or that," said Mr.

Neumann.

Although Camp David calls for transitional talks first to Begin, and then a three-to-five year final withdrawal period of Israel from the occupied West Bank and Gaza, Mr. Neumann believes that the time for a permanent peace arrangement could begin immediately, and "there is nothing in Camp David which would preclude those negotiations from starting immediately."

A second condition that Arabs would insist upon before negotiations were to begin would be a settlement freeze by Israel on the occupied West Bank. The cessation of settlements would serve as a symbol that Israel is ready to negotiate, observed Mr. Neumann.

No conditional agreement

Among West Bank leaders he spoke with, the issues that surrounded the West Bank have a somewhat different emphasis. They want King Hussein to find a way to negotiate in such a way as to lead to Israel's end to occupation, and they have also ruled out any "conditional agreement" with Israel.

Even the Village Leagues on the West Bank, that have been supported by Israeli military authorities, are anticipating a peaceful transition for the West Bank once a peace plan is finally agreed upon, Mr. Neumann says.

Regarding the situation on the occupied West Bank, a leader told Mr. Neumann that "we have no interest in negotiating for the right to appoint an Arab policeman to guard the house of an Israeli government."

Throughout his trip Mr. Neumann was asked the question "if you cannot get the Israelis out of Lebanon, how can you expect us to believe that you can get them out of the West Bank?"

Mr. Neumann is sympathetic to the plight of the Lebanese people and believes that all foreign forces should be removed, but nevertheless, he says "the central

problem of the Middle East is not Lebanon; the Palestinian problem and the security of Israel."

He believes that by giving priority to negotiations in Lebanon, "you create an irresistible motive for Israelis and the Syrians to drag their feet."

"The Reagan initiative cannot be given up without the United States losing all credibility," said Mr. Neumann, noting that it is within America's national interest to continue with its efforts to bring the principal parties together to negotiate a final peace settlement.

Many Mideast leaders feel that if the Reagan plan fails it would lead to a "radicalisation throughout the Arab World and that the beneficiaries will not be left-wing radicals so much as the fundamentalists, who in effect say if you nationalists cannot do the job, move aside and we will do it for you," said Mr. Neumann.

The dilemma now for U.S. Mideast policy is to implement the Reagan peace initiative and get all foreign forces out of Lebanon before negotiations can begin.

"As long as Begin is prime minister, or a person of his type, negotiations will not take place," said Mr. Neumann. Additionally, he feels even if Jordan and the Palestinians were to make a declaration of a willingness to negotiate, "it would not lend to negotiations as long as Begin is prime minister," although it might help Begin's political opposition.

The only effect that it might have is to influence Israeli public opinion, which, according to Mr. Neumann, is narrowly split after the issuance of the Israeli commission of inquiry into the massacre at the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila.

There are many misconceptions on both sides over what is and is not possible in resolving the 35-year-old territorial dispute, says Mr. Neumann, but the chances for substantive negotiations to commence "under the present circumstances strikes me as very difficult."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Headless corpse identified in U.S.

POMONA, New York (R) — A medical examiner identified the remains of a body brought to the United States from El Salvador Sunday as that of missing freelance journalist John Sullivan. Dr. Frederick Zugibe, medical examiner for Rockland County, told a news conference that the "age, sex, race and height of the remains are all consistent with that of John Sullivan." The corpse — headless and without hands — was discovered last July just outside San Salvador. As part of the family's long fight to discover the fate of their missing son, New Jersey Congressman Marge Roukema won approval in the House of Representatives in an amendment making aid to El Salvador contingent, partly upon investigation of his disappearance.

Australian Labour extends its lead

SYDNEY (R) — The opposing Labour Party has extended its lead over Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser's conservative coalition government in the run-up to Australia's general election next week, according to an opinion poll published Saturday. The poll, published in the country's only national newspaper, the Australian, gave Labour a 13-point lead. I said 52 per cent of those surveyed said they would vote Labour and 39 per cent intended to vote for the Liberal-National Party coalition.

Pretoria detains 289 squatters

CAPE TOWN (R) — A total of 289 blacks, including 47 children, were in jail Saturday after a raid on a squatter camp on the outskirts of Cape Town. Police and government officials raided the KTC squatter camp Friday, arresting hundreds of squatters for being in Cape Town illegally, under South Africa's black influx control laws.

Hero advised to get head examined

LONDON (R) — A hospital worker honoured for putting out a fire has been admitted that he is being treated for a hero's syndrome. He started four other blazes to win more glory. Electrician John Jones, 37, would wait nearby for somebody to discover the fires and then rush in and put out the flames, a court was told. Jones, who admitted four charges of arson at the hospital where he worked, was freed by a judge on condition he underwent psychiatric treatment.

Dacca to release jailed politicians

DACCA (R) — Bangladesh military ruler Lt.-Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad said he is planning to free all politicians jailed after last week's violence to set the stage for a national dialogue or the country's future. But he said he had not yet decided whether the politicians would be charged for violating martial law regulations banning political meetings, demonstrations and strikes.

Mistakenly-shot man leaves hospital

LONDON (R) — Freelance film editor Stephen Waldorf, shot by detectives who mistook him for a man wanted for trying to kill a policeman, has left a London hospital after six weeks of treatment, his family said. Mr. Waldorf, 26, was discharged from hospital Friday, but he would have to convalesce before looking for work, a family spokesman added.

North Korean pilot defects to South

SEOUL (Agencies) — A North Korean pilot flew his MIG-19 jet fighter into South Korea Feb. 25, and asked for political asylum, the defence ministry said. A ministry spokesman said the MIG was intercepted after it crossed the border between the two countries. South Korean officials said the pilot was the fifth North Korean military plane to land in the South since the end of the Korean War in 1953.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ QJ
♥ AQJ
♦ 86432
♣ Q86

WEST ♠ AK1097
♥ K98
♦ J1098
♣ 3

EAST ♠ 53
♥ 1076
♦ AK75
♣ AKJ10

SOUTH ♠ 8642
♥ 5432
♦ Void
♣ 97542

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
Pass Dble Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠.

We have never been unqualified admirers of the weak no trump opening bid. But there is no denying that it produces surprising results — and not always in the way you might think!

This hand is from a recent European tournament. North's hand is the sort of 14 points that might not qualify for an opening bid. The doubleton spade honors are of doubtful value and the hand has only one ace and no king. South's decision to run from one no trump is a typical tactic of exponents of the weak no trump (try to escape before getting doubled), but why he chose two spades is

beyond us. (We would have started with two clubs [Stayman] and, should partner deny a major, we would bid two hearts to give partner a choice of suits.) East made a balancing double and West was delighted at the prospects of defending two spades doubled.

Unfortunately, West's skill at selecting an opening lead did not measure up to the wisdom of his decision to defend the doubled contract. Had he started with the king of spades, he would have been able to draw declarer's trumps. Careful play in the minor suits would then have allowed the defenders to take all thirteen tricks, for a penalty of 1500 points.

A strange thing happened when West elected to lead the top of his diamond sequence. Declarer ruffed and took a heart finesse. That left him in dummy for another diamond ruff. There followed in quick order a heart to the queen, a diamond ruff, a heart to the ace and another diamond ruff. Declarer had scored the first seven tricks, and when he now led the thirteenth heart, there was no way he could be prevented from scoring the fulfilling trick with one of dummy's trump honors. Whether West ruffed high, low or not at all, the eighth trick was assured. Since this was tournament play, declarer scored 470 points instead of being set 1500 points. What a swing!

مركز ألعاب